

Technical changes proposed for 2ICE Katoomba

ACMA is proposing to vary the technical specifications of a transmitter for the commercial radio service 2ICE Lithgow, New South Wales.

The proposal includes a change of transmitter site to Wentworth Falls, an increase in transmit antenna height from 30 metres to 60 metres and a directional radiation pattern. The proposed changes will allow the licensee of 2ICE to start the FM translator service at Katoomba.

ACMA is also proposing to add three collection districts at Mount Victoria and Blackheath to the existing 2ICE licence area. The proposed new transmitter is expected to provide a suburban grade of the 2ICE service into these areas.

The closing date for comments was 28 October 2005. The proposals are in an explanatory paper and draft variation to the licence area plan for Lithgow available on the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au and go to Latest > For comment > Broadcasting, or telephone 1800 810 241.

PROPOSAL TO REMAKE THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING GUIDELINES

ACMA is proposing to remake the *Broadcasting Services (International Broadcasting) Guidelines 2000* (IBG).

References in the guidelines to the Australian Broadcasting Authority and ABA will be replaced by references to the Australian Communications and Media Authority and ACMA.

The closing date for comments was 3 November 2005. All submissions received will be published on the ACMA website.

Changes proposed to CTS

ACMA is proposing to change the Children's Television Standards to allow extensive coverage of the 2006 Commonwealth Games by the Nine Network.

The main change proposed would be a temporary measure for the duration of the 2006 Commonwealth Games allowing weekday preschool children's P programs to be displaced for the Nine Network's coverage of the games. The Nine Network would be required to make up these programs during the week immediately preceding the games and the week immediately following the games. The network will also be required to notify the child audience well in advance of the displacements of programs.

ACMA has also decided to revoke and re-make the standards as an instrument of ACMA, resulting in a minor consequential variation to the Australian Content Standard.

CTS DISPLACEMENT RULES

The current CTS rules allow C and P programs for primary school age children to be displaced in certain circumstances. In the case of P programs for preschoolers there is no allowance for displacement where a planned broadcast of an event takes place. The changes proposed would allow the displacement of P programs to follow the current rules for C program displacement. However, there would be specific requirements

on the relevant licensees to begin to notify the audience and their parents at least two weeks before the start of the Commonwealth Games coverage, and to advise when the displaced programs will be broadcast instead.

SUBMISSIONS

The closing date for submissions is 3 November 2005.

The proposed instrument, Children's Television Standards 2005, including the proposed variation in CTS 25A, and the proposed Australian Content Standard variation instrument making the consequential amendments are on the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au (and go to Radio & TV > Content Regulation > Television > Codes and Standards).

TELEVISION PLANS FOR TASMANIA

ACMA proposes to vary the licence area plan for analog television for Tasmania by adding new channels, deleting channels no longer needed or operated by broadcasters and varying the conditions of some of the technical specifications for the existing national and commercial analog television services.

ACMA also released a draft variation to the digital channel plan for the southern region of Tasmania. The draft variation involves the allotment and assignment of channels for digital television repeater services at Acton Road, Bicheno, Cygnet, Dover, Dover South, Geeveston, Maydena, New

Norfolk, Orford, Rokeby, Strathgordon and Swansea in the Tasmania licence area.

ACMA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting. It is proposed to add a second unassigned channel for Hobart and vary the current unassigned channels.

Before finalising these plans, ACMA will consider factors including spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes that viewers will have to make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital broadcasts and the desirability of

broadcasters being able to use their existing transmission facilities to broadcast digital television services.

SUBMISSIONS

The closing date for submissions is 11 November 2005.

The discussion paper and draft variation to the licence area plan for analog television for Tasmania and the explanatory paper and the draft variation to the digital channel plans are available on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au and go to Latest > For comment > Broadcasting, or telephone 1800 226 667.