

Licences for high-powered open narrowcasting services offered

To increase the diversity of services for people in regional and remote areas, ACMA invited applications in November 2006 for 28 high-powered open narrowcasting radio services in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

A reserve price of \$4,000 was set for the Canberra licence and \$2,000 for the remaining 27 licences. Applications for the licences closed on 30 November 2006.

Licences will be issued under a price-based allocation system. Under the system, if there is more than one applicant for a licence, an auction-style licence allocation exercise will be held at which the licence is issued to the highest bidder. If there is only one application for a licence, the licence will be issued to the applicant for the reserve price, subject to certain requirements being met. If applicant does not meet the requirements, the licence will not be issued and ACMA may re-offer it.

The licences are also subject to certain rollout obligations—a licensee must provide a service within six months of being issued the licence, or within such longer period as is notified in writing by ACMA.

Open narrowcasting services are broadcasting services that are limited in some way. This can be either because they are targeted at special interest groups, or are available in limited locations (for example sporting arenas or shopping centres), or are provided during a limited period or to cover a special event, or because they provide programs of limited appeal. More than 90 per cent of currently operating narrowcasting services provide tourist or racing radio services.

For more information about the licences, contact ACMA by email to megan.wychnik@acma.gov.au, telephone 02 6256 2827, or fax 02 6253 3277.

APPARATUS LICENCES FOR HIGH-POWERED OPEN NARROWCASTING SERVICES

State/territory	Licence area plan	Location	Frequency	TS number
ACT	Canberra	Canberra	1323 kHz	TS10014451
	Albury	Henty	94.9 MHz	TS10007983
NSW	Bourke	Brewarrina	94.5 MHz	TS10004501
		Wilcannia	96.7 MHz	TS10004344
	Deniliquin	Wakool	92.5 MHz	TS10007974
	Remote Central & Eastern Australia	Balranald	95.5 MHz	TS10004334
Qld	Charleville	Quilpie	101.3 MHz	TS10004224
	Longreach	Bedourie	101.3 MHz	TS10004215
	Remote Central & Eastern Australia	Birdsville	101.3 MHz	TS10004216
SA	Woomera	Woomera	106.5 MHz	TS10004599
	Esperance	Hopetoun	973 MHz	TS10000834
		Lake Grace	102.9 MHz	TS10000842
		Ravensthorpe	93.1 MHz	TS10000874
	Beagle Bay	102.1 MHz	TS10001464	
	Carnamah	104.3 MHz	TS10005614	
	Coorow	95.1 MHz	TS10002442	
	Cue	99.7 MHz	TS10001034	
	Fitzroy Crossing	104.5 MHz	TS10005311	
	Jerramungup	101.3 MHz	TS10005528	
WA	Remote WA	Marble Bar	104.3 MHz	TS10000789
		Mingenew	92.5 MHz	TS10005593
		Morawa	104.7 MHz	TS10005594
		Mullewa	104.3 MHz	TS10002477
		Pannawonica	104.5 MHz	TS10000638
		Perenjori	105.7 MHz	TS10005612
		Telfer	102.1 MHz	TS10000766
		Three Springs	979 MHz	TS10002493
		Wiluna	100.5 MHz	TS10001023