

30CR community broadcasting licence renewed

ACMA has renewed the community broadcasting licence issued to Otway FM Community Radio Group Inc. (Otway FM) in Colac, Victoria, after the station was able to satisfy concerns raised by the Authority.

In the course of the Otway FM licence renewal process, ACMA raised several issues with the licensee. Of most concern was that the station was off air for almost 18 months and had not provided a

service to significant parts of the licence area. Membership, sponsorship and volunteer levels were all low for these reasons. During this period, a new management team at Otway FM began to address ACMA's concerns, either directly or through specific undertakings. ACMA took this into account and decided to renew the licence of the only community broadcaster in the Colac region.

ACMA will work with Otway

FM and will continue to monitor the operations of the station. ACMA expects to see significant improvement over the coming months and has informed the station that it reserves the right to take further action if it does not meet its undertakings, including imposing additional licence conditions or ultimately cancelling the licence. This decision balances ACMA's objectives of promoting the availability of a diverse range

of radio services throughout Australia and ensuring that broadcasters meet all their statutory obligations.

Community broadcasting licences are issued for five years. ACMA writes to licensees 58 weeks before the licence expires requesting an application for licence renewal, which must be submitted no later than 52 weeks before the licence expires.

Inaugural spectrum management conference looks forward

ACMA held its first annual conference on radiofrequency spectrum management, RadComms 2006, at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney on 11 and 12 December. The conference focused on the future, looking at how the spectrum will be used over the next 10 to 20 years, and allowing spectrum

users, current and prospective, to meet with ACMA to share ideas on planning for future spectrum demand and use.

Conference topics included digital radio, satellite spectrum planning issues, the 'digital dividend'—television spectrum in the next decade—and municipal broadband wireless access. Each day of the

conference ended with a panel-style question and answer session.

For more information about the conference, contact ACMA by email to Christine.Allen@acma.gov.au.

