

Additional licence conditions for 2RBR's community radio licence

ACMA has imposed additional licence conditions on the community radio broadcasting licence for the New South Wales 2RBR Coraki community radio service. The decision was the result of concerns raised during the licence renewal process for the 2RBR licence, held by Community Radio Coraki Association Inc.

Of most concern was that the majority of the station's members and sponsors are located outside the planned licence area for the service and that the licensee had established a second studio in Casino, which is also outside the licence area. There was also concern that 2RBR was broadcasting outside the licence area.

Community broadcasters have a responsibility to meet the needs and interests of the community within the planned licence area. They must also comply with the technical specifications of their apparatus licence and must not broadcast outside the licence area except in limited circumstances.

ACMA's decision to renew the licence with additional conditions balances its objectives of promoting a diverse range of services to the community and ensuring broadcasters meet their statutory obligations. The additional conditions are intended to ensure that 2RBR meets the programming needs of the community within the Coraki licence area, encourages members of the local community to become members of 2RBR, complies with the technical specifications of the licence and does not broadcast from facilities outside the licence area.

2RBR lodged its licence renewal application on 27 June 2006. In the course of renewing the licence, ACMA questioned 2RBR about the extent to which the service meets the programming needs of the

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community within the Coraki licence area and its management capacity to provide the service in accordance with its licence conditions.

ACMA renewed 2RBR's licence from 1 July 2007 for five years, giving 2RBR written notice of its intention to impose additional licence conditions and the opportunity to make representations about the proposed action, in accordance with section 87 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

2RBR must report to ACMA on its compliance with the additional licence conditions by 31 December 2007 and at the end of each quarter during 2008 and 2009. The additional licence conditions were published in the Australian Government Gazette and require 2RBR to:

- amend its constitution so that only members of the community may apply to become members of the licensee
- undertake regular activities to identify the programming needs and interests of members

of the community

- publish on its website notice to the effect that it represents the general community within the Coraki RA1 licence area and list the villages, districts and localities within that licence area
- broadcast at least one announcement each hour between 7.00 am and midnight on each day of the week inviting listeners who are members of the Coraki community to become members of the licensee through membership, participating in the operations of the service and selection and provision of programs
- give ACMA a transcript of the announcements encouraging participation
- devise and implement effective administrative systems for ensuring it complies with the technical specifications of the apparatus licence and
- not use facilities located outside the Coraki RA1 licence area to produce or transmit programs or sponsorship announcements unless the use of the facility is necessary for, or incidental to, the broadcast of programs or sponsorship announcements to areas within the Coraki RA1 licence area.

Failure to comply with the licence conditions may result in enforcement action by the Authority against the licensee, including suspension or cancellation of the licence.

More information about community broadcasting licence renewals is on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For licensees & industry: Licensing & regulation > Broadcasting: Broadcasting licensing > Licence types > Community > Community broadcasting licence renewals).

Hobart radio licence area plan changes to improve services

ACMA has varied the licence area plan for Hobart radio to allow changes to the ABC news radio service 7PB and community radio service 7THE in Hobart to provide better services to listeners.

The 7PB service will now be able to use day/night switching, using a directional signal radiation pattern to improve its coverage in the Hobart area during daylight hours without causing interference to other co-channelled AM services at night.

The variation will also enable the 7THE service to swap the FM frequencies

it currently uses as its main (92.1 MHz) and translator (96.1 MHz) services and operate from new sites at Mt Faulkner and Droughty Hill.

The variation to the Hobart radio licence area plan is on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For licensees & industry: Service & technical requirements > Broadcasting: Analog planning > Licence areas > Licence Area Plans > Final licence area plans (LAPs)).

TEMPORARY COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES ALLOCATED, AUGUST 2007

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
NSW	Lord Howe RA1	Lord Howe Island Radio Station Association Inc	General	100.1 MHz	22/10/07	21/10/08	29/8/07