

Channels assigned for digital TV repeater services in remote and regional WA

ACMA has allotted and assigned digital channels for television repeater services in remote and regional Western Australia, including Bridgetown, Derby, Exmouth, Merredin, Newman, Pemberton, Kununurra and Margaret River.

The allotment follows consultation with interested parties, including broadcasters who provide television services in remote and regional Western Australia, continuing a process begun in 1999 that has progressively made digital television channels available across Australia.

ACMA also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes in areas where channels for national and commercial or only commercial

services are identified.

In making the decisions, ACMA weighed up factors including spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes viewers need to make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital broadcasts and the desire to enable broadcasters to use their existing infrastructure to broadcast their digital television services.

ACMA's priority is the interest of viewers and any impact on the use of video cassette recorders (VCRs) and set-top boxes is expected to be minor—in most cases, viewers will only need to retune their television sets and VCRs. Before any changes take place, public information and education campaigns will advise

viewers about retuning devices and alternative connection methods.

The Commercial Television Conversion Scheme and National Television Conversion Schemes were formulated under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* to provide for conversion of commercial and national television services from analog to digital mode. Under each scheme, ACMA can develop and vary digital channel plans for areas throughout Australia. These plans determine which channels are to be allotted to each licensee for transmitting services in digital mode, and the technical characteristics of those channels.

ACMA's objective is to plan channel allotments that enable

broadcasters to plan their digital transmission coverage to achieve the same level as the existing analog coverage. The *Broadcasting Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2006* enabled remote television broadcasters that have been allocated a third digital-only service to multiplex—making way for a third commercial television service in areas where only two services currently exist.

The explanatory papers and variations to the digital channel plans are on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to About ACMA: Publications & research > Broadcasting publications > Planning > Final digital channel plans (DCPs)).

New community radio licence for Esk, Queensland

ACMA has allocated a new community radio licence to Brisbane River Valley Radio Inc. to maintain the range and diversity of services in the Esk region of Queensland.

The community radio service is broadcast on 95.9 MHz on the FM band. The licensee was already broadcasting on this frequency under

a temporary community broadcasting licence.

ACMA invited applications for the Esk community broadcasting licence (SL1150748) in November 2005. Brisbane River Valley Radio was the only applicant. The applicant satisfied ACMA that its service would meet the existing and perceived future

needs of the community in the licence area. The proposed service is expected to provide programs that cover a wide range of local issues and appeal to the Esk community.

The Esk area is currently served by three national radio services (4QR, 4PB and 4RN) and one commercial radio service (4MIX). The area is also

served by two national television services (the ABC and SBS) and three commercial television services (QTQ58, BTQ61 and TVQ64).

Brisbane River Valley Radio has operated the Esk service under a temporary community broadcasting licence since 2004, which was scheduled to expire in March 2008.

Children's and preschool programs granted classification, October 2007

Program title	Series	Episode description	Program style	Program type	Country of origin	New/renewal	Class	Decision date	Applicant
<i>Backyard Science</i>	3	1-26	Live Action	Light Entertainment - Magazine	Australia	New	C	11/10/07	Beyond Productions Pty Ltd
<i>Pearlie</i>	1	1-52	Animation	Drama - Series	Australia	New	PRC	23/10/07	Sticky Pictures Pty Ltd
<i>The Adventures of Charlotte and Henry - 'The Shortest Day'</i>	N/A	N/A	Animation	Drama - Telemovie (TV)	Australia	New	PRC	23/10/07	Mammal Pty Ltd
<i>The Elephant Princess</i>	1	1-8	Live Action	Drama - Series	Australia	New	CD	19/10/07	Jonathan M Shiff Productions Pty Ltd
<i>Zoomers</i>	1	1-26	Animation	Drama - Series	Australia	New	PRC	12/10/07	Pacific & Beyond Pty Ltd
<i>g2g</i>	1	1-26	Animation	Drama - Series	Australia	New	CD	29/10/07	g2g Productions Unit Trust

Class - Classification, C - C Classification, CD - C Drama, P - P Classification, PRC - Provisional C, PRP - Provisional P
A classification expires five years after the date it was granted or renewed.