

## NEW LOCAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR TASMANIAN COMMERCIAL TV

ACMA has made additional licence conditions to require, for the first time, that commercial television stations in Tasmania broadcast minimum levels of local content or 'material of local significance' from 1 January 2008. The requirements arose from amendments made to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

The *Broadcasting Services (Additional Television Licence Condition) Notice 8 November 2007* will not materially alter the requirements of the existing condition, which had been applied only to specified eastern states regional commercial broadcasters, but will extend those requirements to Tasmanian broadcasters.

Tasmania's two main commercial broadcasters, Southern Cross and WIN, must broadcast at least a specified weekly and six-weekly quota of material of local significance to each of their nominated local areas at designated times. Under the new licence condition, the 'local area' for Tasmania will now also be the entire Tasmanian licence area. This is consistent with current industry

practice of broadcasting the main Tasmanian news stories across the state, rather than segregating coverage to different districts.

Licensees must broadcast at least a specified weekly and six-weekly quota of material of local significance to each of their nominated local areas within eligible periods of 6.30 am to midnight on Monday to Friday, and 8.00 am to midnight on Saturday and Sunday.

Compliance is measured through the use of a points system, with points accrued per minute of material of local significance broadcast. Local news accrues two points per minute broadcast. Other material which directly relates to the local area accrues one point per minute broadcast, and any material which directly relates to the licence area accrues one point per minute broadcast.

Licensees must accumulate at least:

- 90 points per week within each local area and
- 720 points in each local area in each six-week period—average 120 points per week.

Tasmanian Digital Television (TDT), a digital-only station, will be subject to a separate licence condition under the *Broadcasting Services (Additional Television Licence Condition – Digital Mode Transmission) Notice 8 November 2007*. TDT is operating in the smaller digital-only market (31 per cent of households in Tasmania have digital receivers) and ACMA has agreed to grant it an alternative treatment for a limited period as an interim measure. The interim condition requires TDT to accumulate 120 points per calendar year until either the switch-off of analog television services in the Tasmania licence area or 31 December 2012, whichever is earlier. After that, the full obligations applicable to other licensees will apply to TDT.

Local content obligations have been in effect for commercial television broadcasters in regional New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria under the *Broadcasting Services (Additional Television Licence Condition) Notice 7 April 2003*. The new notice revokes the additional conditions set out in the April 2003 notice and replaces them

with additional conditions in substantially similar terms, with the extension of the requirements to licensees in Tasmania.

Licensees self-report their compliance results to ACMA twice a year and these are displayed on the ACMA website. ACMA conducted a preliminary evaluation in 2005 and audits in 2007 to independently assess compliance with the April 2003 notice.

Written submissions from affected licensees and the public were invited recently, and ACMA gave careful consideration to the issues raised before finalising the two conditions.

The licence conditions, information about local content requirements for regional commercial television and submissions received, as well as compliance results, are on the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to For the public: Content & advertising > Broadcasting : About broadcasting content controls > TV content & advertising > TV content requirements > Local content).

## Children's and preschool programs granted classification, November 2007

Program title	Series	Episode description	Program style	Program type	Country of origin	New/renewal	Class	Decision date	Applicant
<i>Animalia</i>	1	30, 31, 33, 34, 35 36, 37, 38, 39, 40	Animation	Drama – Series	Australia	New	CD	14/11/07	Animalia Productions Pty Limited
<i>Dennis and Gnasher</i>	1	1–52	Animation	Drama – Series	Australia	New	PRC	26/11/07	Sticky Pictures Pty Ltd
<i>Dex Hamilton – Alien Entomologist</i>	1	101–126	Animation	Drama – Series	Australia	New	PRC	29/11/07	SLR Productions Pty Ltd
<i>For Kids</i>	1	FK001–FK026	Live Action	Light Entertainment – Magazine	Australia	New	PRP	26/11/07	Gravity TV
<i>The Saddle Club</i>	3	1–26	Live Action	Drama – Series	Australia	New	PRC	26/11/07	Crawford Productions Pty Ltd

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.