

Spectrum available for **temporary community radio broadcasting** in Gosford

To ensure Gosford continues to have diverse broadcasting services, ACMA decided to make spectrum available for a temporary community radio broadcasting service for the Gosford area when Hits n Country 94.1 FM went off-air in late November.

ACMA issued a temporary community radio broadcasting licence for six months to Todaycountry94one to broadcast on 94.1 MHz as soon as Hits n Country went off-air.

Todaycountry94one approached ACMA because it wanted to continue to broadcast a service for the Hits n Country audience.

Central Coast Broadcasters Ltd (2CCH), the licensee of Hits n Country, has provided a service in the Gosford licence area since 2002 for country music and sports enthusiasts. After withdrawing its application to renew its community radio broadcasting licence, 2CCH ceased broadcasting when its licence expired on 21 November 2007.

Community broadcasting services are services that are:

- provided for community purposes
- not operated for profit or as part of profit-making enterprises and

- available free to the general public on commonly available equipment such as an ordinary radio or television.

ACMA may make spectrum available for a limited period under section 34 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* for a range of purposes, including temporary community broadcasting. When considering whether to make spectrum available for any purpose, ACMA must take account of a range of matters, such as demographics and the social and economic characteristics of the relevant community.

Temporary community broadcasting licence applicants must:

- be companies formed within Australia or an external territory and
- represent a community interest.

ACMA called for expressions of interest in sharing broadcasting time on 94.1 MHz by groups representing other interests in the community in the Gosford area.

Interested groups can contact ACMA by email to carsubmissions@acma.gov.au.

Changes to LIPD Class Licence **proposed**

ACMA recently proposed variations to the *Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2000* and the revocation of the *Radiocommunications (Infrared Devices) Class Licence 2002*.

The LIPD Class Licence contains the conditions, operating requirements and technical parameters associated with the operation of a wide range of low power radiocommunications devices operating in various segments of the radiofrequency spectrum. The licence is varied from time to time to respond to requests by industry to operate new equipment or make changes to existing arrangements.

The following new items were proposed for the LIPD Class Licence:

- infrared transmitters in the 187.5–420 terahertz (THz) band
- short-range low power transmitters using analog modulation techniques in the 5.8 GHz band for industrial, scientific

and medical (ISM) applications and

- wireless personal area networks (WPAN) in indoor environments in the 57–66 GHz band.

ACMA proposed to revoke the Infrared Class Licence, which authorised the operation of devices that transmit infrared energy for radiocommunications purposes over short ranges, and to insert a new item for infrared transmitters and their conditions of use into the LIPD Class Licence.

The proposed new item 57 will provide for infrared transmitters operating in the 187.5 to 420 THz frequency band with a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 125 milliwatts (mW). The proposed conditions for the use of infrared transmitters are the same as those in the revoked Infrared Class Licence.

Following requests from industry through Standards Australia, ACMA

proposed to add an all transmitter class in the 5.725 to 5.875 GHz band, one of the bands allocated for ISM applications, with a maximum EIRP of 25 mW. The risk of causing interference to existing services in the band by this proposed addition to the LIPD Class Licence is very low, since the maximum EIRP of existing LIPDs operating in most of the band is 4 Watts.

ACMA also proposed to introduce arrangements for the operation of WPAN in indoor environments in the 57–66 GHz band. This will provide an opportunity for deployment of a range of new high information data rate wireless systems.

The proposed variations to the LIPD Class Licence included extending the arrangements for the following existing items:

- short range broadband wireless communications services used outdoors in the 59–63 GHz band
- wireless audio transmitters to

include datacasting stations

- biomedical telemetry transmitters
- transmitters used for underground communications
- radiodetermination transmitters operated in radiofrequency-shielded enclosures
- 5 GHz band for wireless local area network access and insert a monitoring requirement in the limitations
- medical implant communications transmitters and
- medical implant telemetry transmitters.

The proposed variations and an explanatory paper are on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to About ACMA: News & media centre > Issues for comment > IFC 30/2007). Comments on the proposed changes closed on 1 December 2007.