

Mount Gambier community television trial concludes

The community television (CTV) trial in Mount Gambier, South Australia, concluded on 4 March 2007.

BushVision Inc. has conducted the trial since October 2005, by providing a general service to the Mount Gambier community.

When deciding whether to make spectrum available for a CTV trial, ACMA considers whether an aspirant broadcaster meets the criteria in the Access and Compliance Statement for a Trial Community Television Service. In this case, BushVision advised that it was unable to meet some of the criteria and ACMA has therefore decided not to continue to make the spectrum available.

ACMA issues an apparatus licence to operate a trial community television broadcasting service on the condition that it is used only 'to provide an open narrowcasting television service for community and educational non-profit purposes'. The operator must also provide for participative management and programming practices.

Trial community television services

are generally licensed to operate for 12 months. At the end of a 12-month trial period, ACMA may decide to extend the trial and may require a trial operator to demonstrate continued compliance with the licence conditions.

ACMA had made spectrum available in August 2006 to extend the Mount Gambier CTV trial for six months to allow the licensee time to address ACMA's concerns. At that time, BushVision had failed to demonstrate to ACMA that its corporate structure ensured that control of the community television trial resided with the community of Mount Gambier.

In addition, BushVision did not adequately demonstrate that the Mount Gambier community was able to take part in a broad range of activities involved in the operation and management of the service. Nor did it demonstrate that it had a programming policy, or an open and non-exclusive membership policy supported by a fair grievance mechanism.

There are no current proposals before ACMA for use of the spectrum previously used by BushVision.

ACCESS AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR COMMUNITY TELEVISION TRIALS

ACMA must consider the following matters when considering whether an applicant proposing to provide a trial community television service is likely to comply with the apparatus licence condition:

- the capacity (management, technical and financial capacity) of the applicant to provide the proposed service, or continue to provide the service
- the corporate structure and constituting documents of the applicant
- the nature of any agreements, or proposed agreements, between the applicant and any third party
- the level of openness or non-exclusivity in membership and membership policy and the existence and fairness of any grievance mechanisms relating to

membership exclusions

- the equity of access for members to programming air-time and the existence of structures including a grievance mechanism, designed to allocate air-time fairly
- the flexibility of the applicant's programming policy and format so as to allow new sources of programming to be incorporated
- the diversity and currency of programming to meet the needs of the local community and
- the right of the community to take part in a broad range of activities involved in the operation and management of the service.



Temporary community broadcasting licences allocated, March 2007

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
WA	Perth RA2	Western Sports Media Inc #	Sport and music	90.5 MHz	21/3/07	20/3/08	20/3/07
WA	Perth RA2	Capital Community Radio Inc #	Senior citizens	90.5 MHz	21/3/07	20/3/08	20/3/07
Vic	Bendigo RA2	Goldfields Community Radio Co-operative Ltd*	General	89.5 MHz	13/11/06	12/11/07	27/03/07
Vic	Bendigo RA4	Central Victorian Gospel Radio Inc*	Christian	101.5 MHz	1/03/07	12/11/07	27/03/07

#operating under a time-share arrangement, *licence period extended