

Mt Helen FM licence cancelled

ACMA has cancelled the community radio broadcasting licence held by Mt Helen FM & TV Upper Hunter & Liverpool Plains Community Broadcasting, Telecasting and Tourism Association Inc. (Mt Helen FM), after finding that it had not complied with its licence conditions.

Mt Helen FM was allocated a community radio broadcasting licence in 1999 to represent the general community in Muswellbrook, New South Wales. The 2GGZ service operated on 101.7 MHz and 107.3 MHz. After an enquiry into Mt Helen FM's application for renewal of its community licence in 2004, the licence was renewed with the intention that additional licence conditions would be imposed to ensure that the licensee improves

access to, and participation in, the service and general governance.

ACMA imposed three additional licence conditions on Mt Helen FM's licence on 15 September 2005. The conditions required that:

- the office bearers of the licensee and all members of the committee of management are validly elected and devise and implement procedures to ensure that:
 - every member of the committee of management is fully aware of and understands the legislative and regulatory requirements which apply to the licensee
 - the committee of management properly scrutinises all of the licensee's activities, including all financial arrangements and matters and

- proper records are kept of Mt Helen FM's business activities, including all financial arrangements and matters
- Mt Helen FM establishes and maintains a sub-committee responsible for encouraging and arranging access to Mt Helen FM and all its operations by members of the Muswellbrook community and
- Mt Helen FM broadcasts one announcement inviting listeners to become members of the station and to participate in the selection and provision of programs each hour between 700 am and midnight on each day of the week. Mt Helen FM was required to provide to ACMA a transcript of on-air announcements inviting listeners

to participate in the service by 30 November 2005 and a written report detailing procedures for corporate governance by 31 March 2006.

On 31 August 2006, ACMA found that Mt Helen FM had breached its additional licence conditions by failing to meet these requirements and issued a formal notice to the licensee to comply with the conditions by 1 October 2006. Mt Helen FM did not comply by the due date and ceased broadcasting in August 2006.

ACMA has not made any decision regarding the future use of the frequency that has been freed up and will consider this issue once processes have been finalised with Mt Helen FM.

Low power community radio service for Perth city area

ACMA will make channel capacity available for a new low power community radio service to serve the Perth city area. The new service will operate on 90.5 MHz. Capital Community Radio and Western Sports Media, which have been sharing the frequency, will continue to share the frequency until licence applications are called for the new permanent service.

The changes follow consideration of submissions received on a draft variation to the Perth radio licence area plan released in September

2004 and a revised draft variation released in December 2005. ACMA received more than 1,500 letters of support encouraging it to make an additional community radio service available in Perth.

The licence area of community radio service 6TCR Wanneroo has been extended to include all of the City of Wanneroo and the City of Joondalup. 6TCR has also been granted an increase in power to the north to enable it to provide coverage to all of the City of Wanneroo.

There are amendments to the technical specifications for community radio services 6NR, 6RPH and 6YMS and commercial radio service 6PR to reflect transmitter site changes and power increases for the 6RPH and 6YMS services.

ACMA has also withdrawn the availability for an open narrowcasting service of AM frequency 1170 kHz, which may be required for digital radio.

ACMA will not proceed with changes previously proposed to the technical specifications for the 6IX

Wanneroo FM translator following submissions received on the revised draft variation released in December 2005 and a subsequent field survey undertaken by ACMA.

The variation does not consider the future use of the FM frequency 100.9 MHz. The West Australian Aboriginal Media Association had provided a community radio licence service on that frequency until October this year, when ACMA cancelled its licence.

The licence area plan is on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au.

C31 trial in Adelaide extended

ACMA has extended the community television trial being conducted by C31 in Adelaide until 4 July 2007. The trial had previously been extended to 4 January 2007.

Expressions of interest for a trial were invited in June 2006 after ACMA had decided not to allocate a permanent community television licence in Adelaide because it

considered that neither of the two applicants for the licence (C31 and OUR TV Adelaide Ltd) satisfied the relevant criteria.

Applications for the trial were received from C31 and Television Adelaide Ltd (TV Adelaide). ACMA concluded that C31 satisfied the criteria and had concerns that TV Adelaide did not have the financial

and technical capacity to provide the proposed service.

At the end of the trial, ACMA will assess C31's compliance with undertakings it has given, including:

- to take active steps to identify community needs
- encourage participation in the service
- report on corporate governance

and its financial capacity and

- to consider membership applications from members of rival community television group, Television Adelaide Ltd, in accordance with C31's constitution.

Before considering whether or not to advertise for the permanent community television licence in Adelaide, ACMA will await further developments digital television policy.

TEMPORARY COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES ALLOCATED, DECEMBER 2006–JANUARY 2007

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
SA	Riverland RA1	Riverland Christian Radio Inc	Christian	93.9 MHz	11/12/06	10/6/07	7/12/06
SA	Goolwa RA1	The Fleurieu Christian Broadcasters Inc	Christian	96.5 MHz	30/1/07	29/1/08	2/1/07
SA	Goolwa RA1	Radio Alexandrina (Alex FM) Community Broadcasters Association Inc	General	96.5 MHz	30/1/07	29/1/08	2/1/07
NSW	Ulladulla RA1	Milton Ulladulla and Districts Community Radio Association of Broadcasters Inc	General	102.7 MHz	7/2/07	6/2/08	12/1/07
WA	Port Hedland RA2	Hedland Community Radio Inc	Aboriginal	101.3 MHz	30/1/07	29/1/08	17/1/07