

Proposal to make channels available for ABC radio services in Victoria and Queensland

Written submissions from the public have been sought on proposals to make channels available for ABC radio services in the Bendigo, Colac and Geelong areas of Victoria and the Townsville area of Queensland.

ACMA is proposing to make channel capacity available in Bendigo, Colac and Townsville to enable the ABC to provide its NewsRadio service. In Geelong, ACMA intends to make channel capacity available for an extension of the ABC's Local Radio service.

'The proposed changes are part of a broader plan to extend these ABC services to all transmission areas of Australia with a population of 10,000 or more,' said ACMA Chairman Chris Chapman.

Spectrum is congested for high-power services in each of these regions and ACMA has been unable to identify any vacant FM frequencies that could be used for the ABC services. ACMA is therefore proposing to vary the frequency of some existing services in the radio markets for the introduction of these services.

ACMA was keen to receive community feedback on the proposed variations to existing services. Comments closed on 19 September 2008.

The explanatory papers, draft variations to the licence area plans and other related documents are available by calling 1300 850 115 or from the ACMA website at <www.acma.gov.au> (go to For licensees & industry: Service & technical requirements > Broadcasting: Analog planning > Licence areas > Licence Area Plans > Draft Licence Area Plans).



Do Not Call Register

Community consultation on possible expansion of the Do Not Call Register

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, recently released a departmental discussion paper that sets out expansion options for the Do Not Call Register.

The ACMA-run initiative, which makes it illegal for certain types of telemarketing calls to be made to private or domestic telephone numbers listed on the register, was launched in May 2007. Since then, its popularity has seen Australians list more than 2.5 million numbers.

Senator Conroy said that '... the government is aware that there is some community demand to allow the registration of fax numbers and the telephone numbers used by organisations such as small businesses'.

Currently, telephone numbers used primarily for business or public use, emergency service numbers and fax numbers cannot be listed on the Do Not Call Register.

Senator Conroy said that the proposed changes would effectively extend the protections provided by the Do Not Call Register to business, other organisations and fax users.

Views are being sought on whether these potential changes could enhance the operation of the register while taking into account the

needs of the telemarketing and fax marketing industries.

Submissions on the issues raised in the discussion paper closed on 12 September 2008 and will contribute to further consideration by the government. The paper is available on the departmental website at <www.dbcde.gov.au/donotcall>.