

## Proposed improvement in the coverage of Lithgow commercial radio services

**ACMA has sought public comment on its proposal to vary the technical specifications of Lithgow commercial radio services 2LT and 2ICE at Katoomba. These changes will improve the reception of transmissions in the Blue Mountains area.**

The draft variation also proposes to make three channels available for additional ABC radio services in Lithgow—ABC Classic FM, 2JJJ and ABC Radio News (incorporating the Parliamentary News Network)—as part of the rollout of ABC services across Australia.

The draft variation to the Lithgow radio licence area plan suggests that the 2LT translator service in Katoomba converts from AM to FM on 101.1 MHz at a maximum effective radiated power of 1 kW. It also proposes to

increase the effective radiated power for the 2ICE translator service in Katoomba to 1 kW.

The former Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) determined the Lithgow licence area plan in 1997. The plan provided for two commercial radio services for Lithgow—2LT and 2ICE. The ABA varied the Lithgow licence area plan in December 1999 to provide an AM translator in Katoomba for 2LT and an FM translator in Katoomba for 2ICE.

ACMA prepares licence area plans under

section 26(1) of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and may vary licence area plans under section 26(2) of the Act.

A licence area plan determines the number of broadcasting services and their characteristics, such as technical specifications, that are to be available in a defined area of Australia and delivered using the broadcasting services bands.

The explanatory paper and draft variation to the licence area plan are available on the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to For licensees & industry: Service & technical requirements > Broadcasting: Analog planning > Licence areas > Licence Area Plans > Draft Licence Area Plans) or on telephone 1800 810 241. Comments closed on 15 February 2008.



## Development of digital television codes and standards

**ACMA has sought the views of interested parties on how the industry should approach the development of codes and standards for digital television.**

A recent discussion paper, *Digital television codes and standards*, raises a number of specific issues, including which organisation(s) would have the relevant expertise, representation and level of interest to participate in the development of codes and technical standards for digital terrestrial television broadcasting.

Amendments to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* introduced new provisions allowing ACMA to determine technical standards for the transmission and reception of digital television, in order to help minimise the impact on consumers of the transition to new types of services and equipment. ACMA may also register industry codes and develop industry standards if no code is developed or a registered code proves deficient.

Matters that may be dealt with by industry codes and standards include:

- labelling domestic TV reception equipment
- electronic program guides

- the numbering of digital services, including logical channel numbers
- application program interfaces
- conditional access systems
- updating software in domestic reception equipment.

Submissions will assist ACMA to identify and assess issues that require further consideration. ACMA is particularly interested in codes or standards that would drive the take-up of digital television services in Australia.

*Digital television codes and standards* is available on the ACMA website (go to For licensees & industry: Service & technical requirements > Broadcasting: Digital TV > Digital television codes and standards). All submissions are published on the website, subject to any consideration of confidentiality claims.

Comments closed on 22 February 2008.