



Main issues

The ABA's decision not to plan for additional competing commercial television services for the remote regions of remote Central and Eastern Australia is a result of the lack of entrepreneurial interest in providing competing commercial television services at the present time. The ABA is mindful however that imminent changes in technology or other factors may change entrepreneurial interest in the provision of additional services. If this occurs, it will reassess the situation as a matter of urgency.

Given the possibility the LAP will be reassessed during 1997, the ABA has decided not to permanently extend the licence area of the IMP service to include Mt Isa. Neither has it extended the licence area of the QQQ service to include Alice Springs. Both of these extensions were proposed in its discussion paper released in February 1996. The current arrangements, that is the ABA's approval under s.212 of the Act for retransmission of the IMP service at Mt Isa and the QQQ service at Alice Springs, will continue and will be reassessed upon application for renewal.

Bourke

The decision to make channels available for new community radio services in Bourke and Lightning Ridge is contained in the ABA's final licence area plan for radio in Bourke.

'The decision to make channels available for community radio services in Bourke and Lightning Ridge follows interest expressed by aspirant community groups. The licences for the community radio services will not be available for allocation for at least one year. This will give existing aspirant groups time to consolidate and new aspirant groups the opportunity to emerge,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman.

Any new community radio licences will be made available by means of a merit-based allocation process.

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One group has expressed an interest in providing a second community radio service to Bourke, and one group in

providing a community radio service to Lightning Ridge. The ABA has decided to delay allocation of the community radio licences for at least one year to allow time for the existing aspirant groups to consolidate and new aspirant groups to emerge.

Existing community radio services

The ABA has decided to allow 2WEB Bourke, the community AM service in Bourke, to increase its operating power and to extend its licence area to include Coonamble, Nyngan and Wilcannia. The ABA has provided FM channels for transmission of the 2WEB service at these localities as well as at Lightning Ridge and Walgett.

The ABA has also decided to allow an increase in the operating power of the existing 2TEN Tenterfield community FM radio service, and to extend its licence area to include the community of Texas, Queensland.

Open narrowcasting services

The ABA has made channels available for two open narrowcasting services at each

of Bourke, Brewarrina, Collarenebri, Walgett and Wilcannia and one service at Lightning Ridge. The decision follows interest expressed by aspirant open narrowcasting operators. The licences for these services will be issued via an auction.

The plans do not include commercial or national radio services. A plan for these types of services was released in October 1996. The plans also do not include television services. A plan for television services in the Bourke region is expected to be released later this year, and Tenterfield (which is part of the Northern NSW television market) in 1999.

Details of the television licence area plans for the remote regions of remote Central and Eastern Australia and the radio licence area plans for Bourke and Tenterfield will be available for viewing at major public libraries in these regions, or can be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1 800 810 241.

Programs granted C or P classification

Programs granted C or P classifications between 18 November 1996 and 13 January 1997.
Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilhrst on (02) 9334 7840.

Title	Origin	Class.	New/ Renewal	Decision date	Applicant
OCEAN GIRL 4	Australia	PRC	new	30.12.1996	Jonathan M Shiff Productions Pty Ltd
THE BERENSTAIN BEARS	USA	C	renewal	20.11.1996	Southern Star Sales
THE BONDI PUPPET SHOW	Australia	PRC	new	29.11.1996	Bondi Puppet Theatre
TOTALLY WILD (Series 6)	Australia	C	new	17.12.1996	Network Ten (Brisbane)
WORST BEST FRIENDS	Australia	PRC	new	18.12.1996	Artist Services Pty Ltd

C - children's program CAD - C Australian drama P - pre-school program PRC - Provisional C