



The ABA has allocated nine new community radio licences: five in New South Wales, three in Queensland and one in the Northern Territory.

Community radio licences

The ABA has allocated ten new community radio licences: five in New South Wales, four in Queensland and one in the Northern Territory.

The licensees have 12 months to start the new services.

The ABA has allocated these licences after consulting with the people of the local community to seek their views on what additional broadcasting services were needed in their area.

The ABA received two applications for the licence in Taree: from Mid North Coast Indigenous Broadcasters Association Aboriginal Corporation, and from Manning Great Lakes Christian Broadcasters Inc. (Radio Rhema).

'This was a difficult decision between the two applicants,

each of whom had different strengths,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'Although the decision will be disappointing for Manning Great Lakes Christian Broadcasters, the ABA made every effort to fully consider the claims of the two applicants.'

'The ABA will seek to ensure that programming catering for the needs of those in the Christian community will be provided,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The ABA has commenced negotiations with Mid North Coast Indigenous Broadcasters, seeking a binding commitment that it will enable the provision of at least two days a week of programming catering to the needs of the Christian community in Taree on its service.'

ABA decides not to allocate licence in Narrabri

The ABA has decided not to allocate a community radio broadcasting licence in Narrabri at this time.

The ABA sought applications for the licence in April 1999. There were two applicants: Narrabri Shire Community Radio Inc. and Kaputar FM Community Radio Inc. Both applicants stated that they represented the general community of Narrabri.

'The ABA decided not to allocate the licence because of its concerns about the ability of both applicants to provide a service that will meet the needs of the general community of Narrabri,' said ABA Chairman Professor David Flint.

'In particular, the ABA is concerned about the open hostility that exists between the two applicants, and the effect that this hostility will have on the ability of either applicant to adequately meet the existing and perceived future

needs of the Narrabri community,' he said.

'The ABA has given careful consideration to the information provided by both applicants, as well as by other people in the Narrabri community,' said Professor Flint. 'In making its decision it weighed the applications against the needs and interests of the community and the extent to which the proposed services would meet those needs and interests. The ABA also considered the applicants' capacity to provide their proposed services and the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services in the area.'

'The ABA encouraged the two applicants to merge, or come to some cooperative arrangement that would enable both groups to continue to provide programs to the Narrabri community. However, no such agreement could be reached,' he said.

The ABA will readvertise the licence in 12 months time.

Both groups will be able to continue to provide broadcasts under temporary community broadcast licences, sharing the one frequency still available in the area for this purpose. □

Community radio broadcasting licences allocated

Area served	Licensee	Frequency
NSW		
Cessnock/Maitland	Central Hunter Community Broadcasters Inc.	96.5 MHz
Lightning Ridge	Lightning Ridge Community Radio Inc.	89.7 MHz
Newcastle	Newcastle Christian Broadcasters Ltd. (Rhema FM)	99.7 MHz
Port Macquarie	Mid North Coast Christian Broadcasters Inc.	99.9 MHz
Taree	Mid North Coast Indigenous Broadcasters Inc.	103.3 MHz
Queensland		
Rockhampton	Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Media	100.7 MHz
Dalby	Dalby Broadcasting Association Inc.	89.9 MHz
Mareeba	Living Waters Community Radio Association Inc.	92.3 MHz
Wondai	Community Radio of Wondai Association Inc.	90.7 MHz
Northern Territory		
Borroloola	Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc.	102.9 MHz