



Perth

Proposals for repeater channels for digital tv and datacasting

The ABA has released proposals for digital television repeater services in Roleystone and Toodyay.

The proposals are contained in a discussion paper and draft variations to the digital channel plans for Perth.

The draft variation to the commercial digital channel plan also proposes that a special condition be placed on the technical specifications for the Perth digital television service on channel 32. This special condition is to ensure that interference is not caused to the adjacent channel 31 analog community television open narrowcasting service, CTV31.

The ABA determined the Western Australia (WA): Part 1 DCPs (Perth) on 2 February 2000, which listed channels for the Perth main stations.

The ABA has now prepared draft variations to the Perth commercial and national digital channel plans. The ABA's draft plan proposes channels for digital services at the re-

peater sites of Roleystone and Toodyay. These are the same transmission sites used by existing analog television translator services, which are designed to assist viewers where reception from the main television transmitter sites is difficult.

The open narrowcasting community television service in Perth (CTV 31) operates on channel 31, adjacent to channel 32 which has been allotted to Perth for a digital television service. The ABA understands through discussions with the licensee of CTV 31 that it is operating at half its licensed power (600 kW ERP maximum) and that the radiation pattern may not be fully omni-directional.

The ABA considers that there is significant variability in the factors that must be considered in determining a suitable ERP for a digital service operating on the channel adjacent to an analog service.

New community radio licence for Narrabri

The ABA has allocated a community radio licence to serve the Narrabri area in New South Wales. The new licence has been allocated to Narrabri Shire Community Radio Incorporated to operate a service on 91.3 MHz on the FM band.

When the licence for Narrabri was originally advertised in June 1999, two groups, Narrabri Shire Community Radio and Kaputar FM, applied for the licence.

The ABA decided not to allocate the licence at that time because it was concerned about the ability of each of the applicants to provide a service that would meet the needs of the general community of Narrabri.

'Since then, both groups have worked to resolve the problems that led to the ABA making its decision not to allocate the licence,' said Professor Flint. 'Kaputar FM has been dissolved and its members have been accommodated within the organisation of Narrabri Shire Community Radio. This is to be a service which is intended to be repre-

sentative of all the Narrabri community.'

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Narrabri region,' said Professor Flint. 'The applicant has satisfied the ABA it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the general community in that area.'

The ABA has allocated this licence 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 sought further applications for the community radio licence in July 2000. One application was received and the ABA assessed whether the proposed service would meet existing and future community needs.

Narrabri Shire Community Radio Incorporated currently operates a full time service under a temporary community broadcasting licence. The service features a wide range of programming which is intended to appeal to the general community.

