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The ABA decided to allocate the licences to Christian Air Broadcasters Ltd, to serve the Christian community; to Hott FM Ltd, to serve the youth community and to Radio Hope Island Ltd, to serve the over-50s community. The licences will commence from 1 December 2001.

'These three services will complement the existing commercial radio services and the one established general community radio service 4CRB,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The successful applicants satisfied the ABA that their programming would meet the needs of their respective communities of interest. Christian Air Broadcasters, Hott FM and Radio Hope Island and were all able to demonstrate that they are well supported within the Gold Coast community and that they each have the capacity to establish and maintain a permanent community service.'

The licences were made available following the completion of the licence area plan for radio on the Gold Coast in December 2000. The ABA received applications from seven organisations for the licences – Christian Air Broadcasters Ltd, Gold Coast Community Broadcasters Ltd, Heartland Opry Group Inc, Hott FM Ltd, Portace Pty Ltd, Radio Hope Island and Vision Australia Foundation.

The ABA has allocated the licences after community consultation during the licence area planning process and during the assessment process.

The Christian Air Broadcasters Ltd service will operate on 107.3MHz on the FM band; Hott FM will operate on 105.7MHz and Radio Hope Island will operate on 94.1MHz.

In addition to the three new Gold Coast-wide community broadcasting licences, a wide coverage commercial radio licence was also made available. This has not yet been auctioned.

The Gold Coast area is currently served by three national radio services – 4ABCRN, 4ABC, 4JJJ - and one

Gold Coast-wide general community radio service – 4CRB. There are currently two commercial services – 4GLD and 4SEA.

The Gold Coast is also served by national television services ABQ49 (ABC), SBS61 and commercial television services BTQ 52, QTQ 58, NRN55, NEN64, TVQ46, NBN67 and one community television service, CTV 31.



Contacts

To contact the new licensees, please call Mr Justin Smart, General Manager, Hott FM, on (07) 5539 0009; Mr William Shirley, Vice President, Radio Hope Island on (07) 5577 9999; and Mr Alan Cann, Secretary, Christian Air Broadcasters on (07) 5537 3957.