



Technical changes to radio services on the Gold Coast

The Australian Broadcasting Authority has varied the radio licence area plan for the Gold Coast, to allow the new commercial radio service, Hot Tomato Pty Ltd (Hot Tomato), to operate with alternative technical specifications at Mt Tambourine.

The ABA is also making alternative technical specifications available for the new Gold Coast community radio licences 4RHI (Radio Hope Island), 4CAB (Christian Air Broadcasters Ltd) and 4MET (Radio Metro Ltd).

The community radio services 4RHI and 4CAB will operate from Mt Tambourine, while 4MET will move to an alternative site at Lower Beechmont.

“Before deciding to change the technical specifications of the Gold Coast radio services, the ABA took into account the views of all who made submissions to the draft variation,” said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. “Providing alternative technical specifications for the services will ensure that all Gold Coast residents adequately receive all the radio services made available in the Gold Coast licence area plan.”

Hot Tomato acquired the additional commercial radio licence in August 2002 and has subsequently undertaken negotiations with Transmission Australia (TX Australia) to establish its FM radio transmission facility at Mount Tambourine.

TX Australia advised the ABA that the Hot Tomato service could not be accommodated on the existing FM transmit antenna at 22 m together with the existing radio services. The ABA has decided to change the transmit antenna site of the Hot Tomato service to operate from an alternative site at Mount Tambourine and increase the height from 22 m to 63 m.

The ABA determined the Gold Coast licence area plan in December 2000. The ABA made an additional commercial radio service and three additional community radio services available on the Gold Coast. The licence area plan specified that each of the services would operate at a transmission site on Mount Tambourine.

Community radio services 4MET, 4RHI and 4CAB were allocated permanent community radio licences in November 2001.

Community radio services 4MET, 4RHI and 4CAB requested changes to their technical operating conditions. The ABA has varied the operating conditions of the three community radio services to operate as follows:

- 4MET to change its transmit antenna site from the nominal site at Mount Tambourine to an alternative site at Lower Beechmont, increase its maximum effective radiated power (ERP) from 10 kW to 25 kW and increase its maximum transmit antenna height from 22 m to 30 m.
- 4RHI to change its maximum transmit antenna site from the nominal site at Mount Tambourine to an alternate site on Mount Tambourine and increase the antenna height from 22 m to 63 m.
- 4CAB to change its maximum transmit antenna from the nominal site at Mount Tambourine to an alternate site on Mount Tambourine, increase the antenna height from 22 m to 63 and increase its maximum ERP from 10 kW to 25 kW.

A draft variation to the licence area plan was released in December 2002 and nine submissions were received commenting on the proposals. All of the comments in the submissions were assessed and taken into consideration before the ABA made its final decision.



Temporary community broadcasting licences

Temporary community broadcasting licences allocated in period 26 February - 14 March 2003

<i>Area served</i>	<i>Licensee</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Date allocated</i>
New South Wales				
Taree	Manning Great Lakes Christian Broadcasters Inc	106.5 MHz	16/03/2003 to 15/03/2004	04/03/2003
Queensland				
Charleville	Bidjara Media & Broadcasting Company Ltd	105.7 MHz	07/03/2003 to 06/03/2004	04/03/2003
Victoria				
Bendigo	Central Victorian Gospel Radio Inc	101.5 MHz	01/03/2003 to 29/02/2004	25/02/2003
Corryong	High Country Christian Broadcasters Assn Inc	94.9 MHz	07/03/2003 to 06/03/2004	04/03/2003
Warragul	Western Gippsland Community Radio Inc	103.1 MHz	18/03/2003 to 31/08/2003	11/03/2003