



News Update

Closing date for comment

The closing date for comment is 20 August 2004.

The proposals are contained in draft variations to both the Wagga Wagga and Cairns radio licence area plans. These are on the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/index.htm, or tel: 1800 226 667.

areas has been planned by the ABA under the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program. This program is an Australian Government initiative which will provide \$5 million over three years to deliver new or improved commercial radio services to regional and remote communities where it has not been commercially viable for licensees to provide coverage. The program will ensure that greater access to commercial radio services is provided to a large number of people located in regional and remote Australia.

Wagga Wagga

The ABA proposes to make FM channel capacity available for transmitters for the Wagga Wagga commercial radio services 2WG (at Gundagai) and 2WZD (Tumut). The licensee of 2WG and 2WZD has requested these extensions to its services to enable it to resolve reception deficiencies in these areas.

The ABA proposes to increase the power of the service provided by Montreal Community Theatre Inc, which holds a temporary community radio licence at Tumut, and following an expression of interest from 2KY, the ABA is proposing to make a frequency available for a high power open narrowcasting service at Wagga Wagga.

As a result of a request from the ABC, the ABA is also proposing to make channel capacity available for an additional high power national service in Wagga Wagga.

Cairns

The ABA proposes to make FM channel capacity available for the Cairns commercial radio service 4CCA at Redlynch Valley and Little Mulgrave. The licensee of 4CCA has requested these extensions to its service to enable it to resolve reception deficiencies.

The ABA is also proposing to make FM channel capacity available to the ABC in Cairns and Cairns North for future radio services.

'This is part of the ABA's ongoing commitment to reserve channel capacity for the possible future provision of the full range of ABC radio services to communities or regional transmission areas with a population of 10 000 people or more,' said Ms Maddock.

In addition the ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available for a new community radio service in Cairns and a new high power open narrowcasting radio service in Port Douglas. ☐

Draft variation to Inverell radio licence area plan

The ABA is proposing to amalgamate the licence areas of the Deepwater and Glen Innes community radio services.

'The ABA's proposal follows consideration of a request from Deepwater and Districts Community FM Radio, the licensee of community radio service 2CBD Deepwater, to extend its licence area to include Glen Innes,' said Ms Maddock.

The licensee of DCFM has been operating a temporary service in Glen Innes since August 2002, largely providing a retransmission of its existing Deepwater service.

The ABA called for applications for the Glen Innes licence in March 2004. DCFM was the only applicant. When considering whether or not to allocate the Glen Innes community radio licence to DCFM, the ABA formed a view that it would be better to merge the licence areas of the two services, making just one community radio service available in the region.

Closing date for comment

The proposal is contained in the draft variation to the Inverell radio licence area plan. The draft variation and explanatory paper are on the ABA's web site, www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/inverell/index.htm or tel: 1800 226 667.

The closing date for comment is 20 August 2004. The ABA is particularly interested in the views of residents and the Shire Councils in the region. ☐

