



News Update

Changes to radio services in Bathurst area proposed

The ABA is proposing to make channel capacity available for new radio services in the Bathurst region.

The ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available in Bathurst City on 98.3 MHz to the ABC for a future national service. This is part of the ABA's ongoing commitment to reserve channel capacity for the 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.

The ABA also proposes to make FM channel capacity available for the commercial radio service 2BS at Sofala, Burruga and Blayney on 90.1 MHz, 88.1 MHz and 89.3 MHz respectively. These proposals follow consideration of requests from Bathurst Broadcasters, the licensee of the 2BS service, to enable it to resolve reception difficulties in the Bathurst region. These areas were identified by Bathurst Broadcasters as radio blackspots for the purpose of the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program.

The ABA is also proposing to increase the antenna height of the 2BXS FM service at Bathurst from 30 metres to 45 metres to reflect the current operating conditions.

The closing date for comment on the proposal, in the Bathurst radio licence area plan, was 3 December 2004. The draft variation to the Bathurst radio licence area plan together with an explanatory paper are available on the ABA's web site, <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/bathurst/index.htm>.

Draft variation to Bega radio licence area plan

The ABA is proposing to extend the licence area of community radio service 2BAR Bega to include Candelo, Bermagui and Tura Beach, and to specify the effective radiation power of the service at 1 kW. The ABA considers this power level will provide an adequate signal to the primary townships in the extended licence area.

'The proposed change follows a request from the licensee of the 2BAR service to extend its licence area and improve coverage of its service,' said Ms Maddock.

The 2BAR service has operated for two years from a site at Dr Georges Mountain, initially on an ERPoF 2 kW. The ERP of the service was lowered to 350 W after a field survey conducted by the ABA showed that this reduced power level was adequate to serve the licence area.

2BAR has requested the ABA extend its licence area to include those townships which received the service when it operated at the higher ERP. 2BAR has shown that some residents in these townships are members of its service and there are significant community-of-interest ties between Bega and the smaller townships.

The closing date for comment on the proposal, in the Bega radio licence area plan, is 17 December 2004. The draft variation to the Bega radio licence area plan, with an explanatory paper, is available from the ABA's web site, <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/bega/index.htm>.

New radio channels proposed for Port Stephens

The ABA is proposing to make FM channel capacity available for commercial service 2HD Newcastle and five national radio services at Port Stephens, New South Wales.

'The draft technical specifications for FM radio translators at Port Stephens have been developed with the objective of minimising any possible interference to television reception in the area,' said Ms Maddock. 'If any interference does occur when services commence, it will be the responsibility of the radio broadcasters to rectify it.'

FM radio translators for the Port Stephens area have the potential to cause interference to the reception of television services where viewers are watching Newcastle television services using mast head amplifiers.'

Before finalising the technical specifications, the ABA is interested in receiving comments on the draft variation to the Newcastle radio licence

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area plan as it relates to the proposed Port Stephens translators.

The explanatory paper and draft variation to the Newcastle radio licence area plan is available from <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/newcastle/index.htm> or tel:1800 226 667. The closing date for submissions is 5 pm, Friday 17 December 2004.

Revised draft variation to Wagga Wagga radio licence area plan

The ABA is proposing to make channel capacity available for new and improved services in the Wagga Wagga region.

The ABA has identified channel capacity which is proposed to be made available for a higher power open narrowcasting service in Wagga Wagga. The draft licence area plan also proposes technical specifications for the 2AAA service for operation at an alternate site, which the ABA believes will resolve reception difficulties for the service.

The proposals are contained in the revised draft variation to the Wagga Wagga radio licence area plan, available from the ABA's web site <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/nsw/wagga/index.htm>.

The closing date for comment is 10 December 2004.

Draft variation to Warragul radio licence area plan

The ABA is proposing to make channel capacity available for the commercial radio service 3SEA Warragul at Traralgon, Victoria to rectify reception deficiencies in the Traralgon and Morwell area.

These areas are in an overlap between the Warragul and Sale commercial radio licence areas.

The ABA proposes to make 97.9 MHz on the FM band available for a transmitter at Tyers that would operate at a maximum ERP of 500W

towards Morwell and Traralgon with a maximum 50W towards Sale to minimise overspill.

The ABA's proposal will not only rectify the reception deficiencies but also limit signal overspill to acceptable levels into parts of the Sale commercial radio licence area that are not located within the overlap region.

The proposal is contained in the draft variation to the Warragul radio licence area plan, available from the ABA's web site, <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/vic/warragul/index.htm>.

The closing date for comment is 17 December 2004.

Changes proposed to radio services at Biloela

The ABA is proposing a power increase for the proposed new commercial radio services at Biloela, Queensland.

In August 2004, the ABA proposed to make FM channel capacity available for the commercial radio services 4RO, 4RGK and 4ROK Rockhampton at Biloela. The ABA has performed further engineering analysis and has revised the proposed technical specifications for the Biloela commercial radio services, so they would operate with an effective radiated power of 50W instead of the 10W previously proposed.

The previous proposals of making FM channel capacity available for the Rockhampton commercial radio service 4CC at Angas Water and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in Rockhampton and Gladstone for future national radio services, remain unchanged.

The ABA also proposes to vary the technical specifications of the community radio 4RGL Gladstone service to reflect a change of transmitter site from Radar Hill to Round Hill.

The closing date for comment on the additional proposals was 3 December 2004. The revised draft variation to the Rockhampton/Gladstone radio licence area plan with an explanatory paper are available from the ABA's web site, http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/services/services/qld/rockhampton_gladstone/index.htm.

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Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in the period 28 October to 19 November 2004.

Area served	Licensee	Frequency	Period	Date allocated
Victoria				
Walwa/Jingellic RA1	Upper Murray Community Radio Inc.	88.7MHz & 107.7 MHz	12.12.2004 – 11.5.2005	15.11.2004