



News Update

Super League listing

SYDNEY: The Minister for Communications and the Arts has decided to release the ABA's second report on the anti-siphoning provisions which was provided to him in December 1995.

The Minister has accepted the ABA's recommendation to add certain Super League events to the anti-siphoning list and amend the names of certain events. A notice to this effect was published in a special edition of the *Government Notices Gazette* on 1 February.

The ABA recommended that the Australasian Super League (including the finals series), the Tri-Series, the World Club Championship, the World Cup and international matches involving the senior Australian representative team be listed.

In addition, the ABA recommended that certain matches of the recently formed rugby union 'International Provincial Competition', known as the Rugby Super 12 Competition, be added to the anti-siphoning list. The Minister has not accepted this recommendation but has placed this event on a 'watch list'.

The ABA also recommended that the names of the NSW Open tennis tournament and the National Soccer League on the anti-siphoning list be amended to 'the Peters International' and 'the Ericsson Cup' respectively, in order to reflect changes as a result of new

sponsorships and restructuring of sports events.

The anti-siphoning provisions empower the Minister to decide which television events should be available on free-to-air television for the

general public, so these events are not siphoned off to pay TV to the detriment of viewers.

The rights to the events on the anti-siphoning list can only be acquired by pay TV if they have first been acquired by a commercial or national television broadcaster, unless the Minister chooses to remove an event from the notice.

The second report adds to and updates the information provided in the ABA's first report to the Minister in July 1995. It focuses on events on the anti-siphoning list which have been acquired and broadcast since that time.

Community TV trial for Hobart

SYDNEY: The ABA is proposing to make a television channel temporarily available for a trial of community television in Hobart.

This follows a licence application from the non-profit community broadcasting organisation, Hobart Access Community Television Inc. (HACT).

The ABA is now assessing HACT's application and is interested in comment from members of the public by 8 March 1996, before the ABA gives HACT permission to go to air.

'Because the ABA can only make one channel available for temporary community television purposes in each area, the licensee must be set up and governed as a representative organisation committed to providing access to the whole community,' said Mr Nick Herd, ABA Program Services Director.

'In this way, the wider community can gain access to the management and operation of the station, and become involved in the provision of programming.'

The ABA cannot allocate permanent community television licences on the VHF or UHF television bands before a ministerial review of the television broadcasting industry, which must be completed by July 1997. In most parts of Australia, there is only one high powered free-to-air television channel available after the two national and three commercial broadcasters. The ministerial review will decide the permanent use of the channel.

In the meantime the ABA has made a channel (UHF 34 or 40 in the Hobart area) temporarily available until the end of June 1997, on the condition the service is provided for community and educational, non-profit purposes. To date, the ABA has made channels available on a temporary basis in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Lismore and Perth/Mandurah.

New radio services proposed for Cowra

CANBERRA: The ABA would like to hear from people in the Cowra area about proposals for new local radio services by commercial broadcaster 2BS Bathurst and community broadcaster 2LVR Forbes.

2BS would like to extend its service to reach Cowra and believes there are strong links between Bathurst and Cowra which justify this



Copies of the report, *Anti-Siphoning. The Availability, Acquisition and Use of Broadcast Rights. Second Report to the Minister for Communications and the Arts*, are available free from the ABA, phone (02) 334 7700.