



News Update

New commercial radio licences for Sydney and Campbelltown allocated

The ABA has allocated two new commercial radio broadcasting licences to serve Sydney and Campbelltown.

GD Ventures Pty Ltd paid \$155m for the Sydney licence. Wollongong Radio Pty Ltd paid \$10m for the Campbelltown licence.

The new services will operate in the FM band.

All successful applicants must commence operation of a service within one year of being allocated the licence (or seek the ABA's permission for an extension of this period).

The ABA held auctions for these licences on 24 May 2000.

New non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio licence allocated

The ABA has allocated a new non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio licence to 2KY Broadcasting Pty Ltd to serve Sydney, NSW.

The licensee may not use the broadcasting services bands to deliver its service.

Under section 40 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, the ABA, on application, allocates non-broadcasting services bands commercial radio licences. Applicants for a licence must pay an application fee, currently set at \$2400.

2KY Broadcasting Pty Ltd must commence its service within 12 months of being allocated the licence or within a longer period as approved by the ABA.

TV channel move in regional WA

The ABA has approved a change in channel for the Golden West Network television service in the Central Agricultural Area of Western Australia from VHF channel 11 to UHF channel 50.

The move is required in order to accommodate the use of channel 11 for the Network Ten digital television service in Perth. Digital television services in Perth and other metropolitan areas are to commence on 1 January 2001.

The required changes are contained in the

variations to the licence area plan and frequency allotment plan for television services in Remote and Regional Western Australia.

GWN is working towards having the channel 50 analog service, which operates under the call sign SSW, on air by 15 August 2000, with simulcasting on both channels 11 and 50 to continue up to 31 January 2001. GWN is conducting a comprehensive education campaign; informing viewers of the change to the Central Agricultural channel 11 service from VHF to UHF and assisting with remedial action, where required (GWN Hotline freecall: 1800 880 231).

The Central Agricultural coverage area includes: Beverley, Brookton, Corrigin, Cunderdin, Dowerin, Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Pingelly, Quairading, Tammin, Wyalkatchem and York.

Complaint regarding GST 'chains' advertisement

The ABA has become aware of claims that its findings in relation to an investigation into a GST 'Chains' advertisement conclude that the Government's GST advertising campaign was 'political'. This is not the case.

The ABA's finding that the broadcast was political matter was only for the purposes and under the terms of the Broadcasting Services Act. The ABA did not make a finding that either the advertisement it looked at or the entire GST advertising campaign was 'political' in any broader sense.

The ABA's *Guidelines for the Broadcasting of Political Matter*, issued in 1998, state:

Any matter broadcast which advocates a certain point of view with regard to government and its policies, or political parties and their policies, would fall within the definition of political matter.

The only ramifications of a matter being found to be political matter under the Broadcasting Services Act are that the matter must contain the required particulars, or 'tag' and that the broadcaster must retain records of such matter.

The ABA did not find any breach of the relevant licence condition by the broadcaster concerned, WIN TV Canberra.

For copies:

variations to the licence area plan and frequency allotment plan for television services in Remote and Regional Western Australia and the Perth digital channel plan are on the ABA web site at www.aba.gov.au or by Freecall 1 800 810 241.