



The Australian Broadcasting Authority is seeking to amend the licence areas of a number of commercial radio services in North West Western Australia

Changes proposed to commercial radio services in north west Western Australia

The Australian Broadcasting Authority is seeking to amend the licence areas of a number of commercial radio services in North West Western Australia, to enable the operator to provide more appropriate services to communities in the region.

The ABA is proposing to excise the towns of Paraburdoo and Tom Price from the Karratha licence area and include them in the Remote Western Australia licence area. The ABA is also proposing to move Broome from the Remote Western Australia licence area to the Port Hedland licence area. The ABA's proposals are contained in explanatory papers and draft variations to the licence area plans for Karratha, Port Hedland and Remote Western Australia.

Redwave Media Ltd operates all the commercial radio services in the Karratha, Port Hedland and Remote Western Australia licence areas. These services are 6KA Karratha, 6RED Karratha, 6NW Port Hedland, 6HED Port Hedland, 6FMS Remote Western Australia and 6SAT Western Australia.

Redwave Media considers that the content of the remote radio

services 6FMS and 6SAT is not suitable in a major tourist destination such as Broome. Redwave further considers that these remote radio services would be better suited to the towns of Paraburdoo and Tom Price, as they are predominately mining communities.

"The draft variations represent the ABA's thinking at this stage of the planning process," said Professor Flint, ABA Chairman. "Before reaching a final decision the ABA will consider comments on the proposals to alter the commercial radio services available to serve the Karratha, Port Hedland and Remote Western Australia areas."

To facilitate the submission process, the ABA has advised Redwave Media that during the consultation process after the release of the draft variation to the licence area plan, it should broadcast details of the intended changes to the radio services in the Remote WA licence area in order that listeners are aware of the proposed changes and can make submissions if they wish to do so.

The ABA determined the Karratha and Port Hedland radio licence area plans in June

1996 and the Remote Western Australia radio licence area plan in August 1996.

In determining the Karratha licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity available for the existing Karratha commercial radio service 6KA to operate on AM 1260 kHz. Channel capacity was also made available for local coverage transmitters for the 6KA service at Tom Price and Paraburdoo on 765 kHz. In addition, the ABA made channel capacity available for 6KA to operate under s.39 of the Act, a second commercial radio service (6RED) at Karratha on 106.5 MHz. Channel capacity was also made available for local coverage transmitters for the 6RED service at Tom Price and Paraburdoo on 105.7 MHz and 101.3 MHz respectively.

In determining the Port Hedland licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity available for the existing Port Hedland commercial radio service 6NW to operate on AM 1026 kHz. The ABA also made channel capacity available for 6NW to operate under s.39 of the Act, a second commercial radio service (6HED) on 91.7 MHz.

In determining the Remote Western Australia licence area plan, the ABA made channel capacity for the existing remote commercial radio services 6FMS and 6SAT throughout remote WA including Broome. In October 2001, the ABA varied the Remote Western Australia licence area plan to include the town of Exmouth, which was excised from the Carnarvon licence area.

In October 2002, Redwave Media Ltd submitted to the ABA to have Broome excised from the Remote Western Australia licence area plan and included in the Port Hedland licence area plan and also to excise Tom Price and Paraburdoo from the Karratha licence area plan and be placed in the Remote Western Australia licence area. Redwave Media Ltd considers that the proposed changes will provide residents in these areas with programming more suited to their needs.



The explanatory papers and draft licence area plans are available from the ABA web site at www.aba.gov.au or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.