



Recent planning decisions

New radio services for Nowra area


The ABA has decided to make channel capacity available for new and improved services in the Nowra area of New South Wales.

The ABA has decided to make FM channel capacity available for the commercial radio service 2ST Nowra at St Georges Basin and Kangaroo Valley to rectify reception deficiency within its licence area.

The ABA has also made FM channel capacity available for an additional community radio service in Sanctuary Point. The ABA will call for applications for this radio service in the near future.

The allocation of broadcasting services bands community broadcasting licences is merit-based: that is, the ABA will allocate this licence on the basis of the merits of applicants and their proposed services and, if necessary, on the comparative merits of competing applications.

The decisions are contained in the variation to the Nowra radio licence area plan, available on the ABA's web site, <http://www.aba.gov.au/radio/>

[services/services/nsw/nowra/index.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/services/services/nsw/nowra/index.htm) or tel. 1800 226 667. 

Channels for digital TV repeater services in Brisbane and south east Queensland


The ABA has assigned channels for digital television repeater services at Boonah and Esk in the Brisbane licence area and Bell, Goondiwindi, Miles, Murgon, Tara, Texas and Warwick in the Regional Queensland licence area.

The decisions are contained in a variation to the digital channel plans for Brisbane and Regional Queensland.

'In finalising these plans the ABA weighed up a number of important factors. These include the aim of spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes that viewers will have to make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital broadcasts and the desirability of broadcasters being able to use their existing transmission facilities to broadcast their digital television services,' said Ms Maddock.

The plans set out the channels the existing commercial

and national television broadcasters will use for their digital transmissions. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.

The explanatory paper, which discussed issues raised in submissions, and the variation to the digital channel plans are available on the ABA's web site at <http://www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/qld/index.htm> or tel. 1800 226 667. 

Current analog TV channels confirmed for remote and regional Western Australia

The ABA has confirmed the current channel arrangements for television services in the Remote and Regional Western Australia television licence area.

In the variation to the television licence area plan for Remote and Regional Western Australia, the ABA has decided to remove the alternative channel capacity made available in 1997. It has also decided to vary the technical specifications of the analog television serv-

ices in these areas to reflect the current operating conditions.

By the end of the digital television simulcast period, services that have been operating in analog mode in VHF Band II (channels 3, 4 and 5) or on channel 5A will cease and as such, the ABA believes there no longer remains a pressing need to clear VHF Band II/5A channels.

The ABA's decisions accompanying the licence area plan indicated that clearance of the VHF Band II services would not be required for at least ten years from the date of determination and that the situation would be reviewed again in five years time to determine whether or not clearance would be necessary at the end of the ten year period. Such a review was not conducted in 2002. The decisions accompanying the licence area plan also indicated that clearance of the channel 5A services would not be required earlier than 10 years from the date of determination.

The variation to the Remote and Regional Western Australia licence area plan is available at: <http://www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/qld/index.htm> or tel. 1800 226 667. 