



# Planning for radio in the metropolitan markets

## Sydney:

### up to six high power channels available

The ABA has identified six high power radio channels, two AM and four FM, as being potentially available in the Sydney radio market.

Potentially available radio frequencies and proposed changes to existing services are contained in an information booklet on the Sydney, Katoomba and Gosford commercial radio markets released at the ABA's Planning Seminar in Canberra on 17 February.

'The release of this booklet signals the start of the ABA's consultation process on planning for radio in the Sydney market,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'Part of the ABA's planning process is to use spectrum efficiently. In order to rationalise the frequencies in the Sydney area, the ABA has proposed that some local coverage community radio services move to alternative frequencies to allow for additional wide coverage FM radio services in the Sydney area.'

The proposed move would affect three channels now used by 2NSB Chatswood (91.5 MHz) and 2MWM Manly (93.7

MHz Manly North and 92.1 MHz Manly South).

'It should be noted that the ABA has yet to form a view about what type of licences and services will be made available in Sydney,' said Professor Flint. 'That will be done in a draft licence area plan, scheduled for release later this year.'

In addition to the two wide coverage AM channels in Sydney, the ABA has identified a local coverage AM channel available in the Penrith area.

As well as the four wide coverage FM channels in Sydney, five local coverage FM channels have also been identified as potentially available. These include a channel each to cover the Penrith/Blacktown, Penrith, Blacktown, Hornsby and Campbelltown town areas.

Depending on information received during the consultation process the ABA is also considering the potential availability of an additional five FM frequencies in Sydney.

#### **Katoomba**

For the Katoomba market, the ABA has identified one

#### **Information booklets**

The release of the information booklets is the start of the licence area planning process for each of the Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane regions. The booklet has been sent to all existing broadcasters as well as all known aspirant broadcasters in the regions.

The booklets are also available from the ABA by telephoning Freecall 1 800 810 241 or:

for the Sydney region, call Wendy Jones (02) 6256 2859;

for the Melbourne region, call Lydia Melnikoff on (02) 6256 2822; or

for the Brisbane region, call Greg Cupitt on (02) 6256 2846

At this stage the ABA is not seeking submissions on the booklets.

#### **Consultation meetings**

Consultation meetings will be held in each area in March and April 1998. Interested groups should contact the ABA's Planning Branch to arrange meetings. Specific details for the appropriate Planning Officer are contained in each information booklet.

It is preferable that submitters, especially potential and existing service providers, not lodge their submissions until after consultation takes place.

#### **Other metropolitan radio markets**

Information booklets for Adelaide and Perth are scheduled to be released by the end of March.

#### **Licence area plans**

Following the ABA's meetings with interested parties in the region in March/April, it will invite submissions and form preliminary views on the number and type of new radio services to be made available and publish this in a draft licence area plan. The ABA expects to release draft licence area plans for the Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane regions in the second half of this year, and final plans in 1999.

#### **Allocation of licences**

In general, channel capacity made available for commercial and open narrowcasting radio services will be allocated under a price-based allocation scheme.

Capacity made available for community licences will be allocated by means of a merit-based system. The ABA will generally begin the allocation process after a final licence area plan for each area has been determined.



high powered AM channel (783 kHz, formerly used by 2KA Katoomba) as potentially available.

**Gosford**

For the Gosford market, the ABA has identified a wide coverage AM channel (801 kHz) and three medium coverage FM channels (93.3 MHz, 94.1MHz and 94.9 MHz) as potentially available. The availability of a fourth wide-coverage FM channel (104.5 MHz) is sub-

ject to this channel not being made available in Newcastle.

FM channel availability for additional radio services in Sydney, Katoomba and Gosford may be affected by decisions made in relation to additional FM radio services in each of the respective markets.

In the Sydney market, the tables on this page list AM and

**Table 1: Potentially available AM frequencies in the Sydney market**

Area	Frequency	Maximum CMF (Power)	Nominal site
Sydney	1386 kHz	1015 V (5 kW)	Homebush
Sydney	1539 kHz	385 V (1 kW)	Bicentennial Park, Concord West
Penrith	1476 kHz	225 V (500 W)	Emu Plains, 5km NW of Penrith

FM channels the ABA has identified as potentially available. The first and second tables list the channels which may be available for use as identified

by the ABA in its preliminary investigations. The third table lists channels that, depending on information received during the consultation process, may be available.

**Table 2: Potentially available FM frequencies in the Sydney market**

Area	Frequency	Maximum ERP	Nominal site
Sydney	92.1 MHz	15 kW	Ch 10 Tower, Artarmon
Sydney	93.7 MHz	15 kW	Ch 10 Tower, Artarmon
Sydney	94.5 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower, Artarmon
Sydney	96.9 MHz	150 kW	Ch 10 Tower, Artarmon
Penrith/ Blacktown	88.3 MHz	100 W	6 Collins St, St Marys
Penrith	100.7 MHz	200 W	Uni of Western Sydney, Werrington
Blacktown	100.3 MHz	200 W	Australia's Wonderland
Hornsby/ Killara	99.3 MHz	200 W	Pacific Hwy & Romsey Rd, Waitara
Campbelltown	100.5 MHz	200 W	Mt Hurcules Rd, Razorback

**Table 3: Other possible low power FM frequencies in the Sydney market**

Frequency*
89.5 MHz
89.9 MHz
95.3 MHz
91.3 MHz
99.5 MHz
99.9 MHz

\* these frequencies are currently spare

# Melbourne:

## up to seven high power radio channels available

The ABA has identified seven high power radio channels, three AM and four FM, as being potentially available in the Melbourne radio market.

Potentially available radio frequencies and proposed changes to existing services are contained in an information booklet on the Melbourne, Geelong and Colac commercial radio markets.

In order to rationalise the frequencies in the Melbourne area, the ABA has proposed that a Geelong community radio service move to an alternative frequency to allow for additional wide coverage FM radio services in the Melbourne area.

As well as the four wide coverage FM channels in Melbourne, six local coverage FM channels have also been iden-

tified as potentially available. These include a channel each to cover the Melbourne CBD, Bacchus Marsh, Camberwell, Sunbury, Waverley and Werribee.

Three wide coverage AM frequencies, currently in use for open narrowcasting until 31 December 1998, are potentially available in the Melbourne market.

**Melbourne**

In the Melbourne market, the ABA has identified 89.9 MHz, 90.7 MHz, 91.5 MHz, and 100.3 MHz as wide coverage FM frequencies that potentially could be used. The use of 100.3 MHz in Melbourne is subject to the existing community radio service 3YYR Geelong, currently operating on 100.3 MHz, moving to an alternative frequency.



In relation to the six low power frequencies potentially available around the Melbourne region, in some cases there are existing aspirant broadcasters, but not in others.

Two existing community radio services, one at Plenty Valley and one at Melbourne West, and an aspirant community broadcaster in Sunbury are operating on non-standard frequencies. It may be necessary to move these services to a standardised frequency if the demand for

frequencies for new services cannot be satisfied from what is known to be potentially available at this stage of planning.

Three high power AM frequencies are potentially available in Melbourne. These are 1116 kHz, 1422 kHz and 1593 kHz. These frequencies were previously used by commercial AM radio services which converted to the FM band.

#### **Geelong**

For the Geelong area, the ABA

has identified two high power frequencies (94.7 MHz and 96.3 MHz) as potentially available for wide coverage FM services.

However, frequency 94.7 MHz has been identified as a possible future frequency for 3YYR Geelong if it is required to clear from its existing frequency of 100.3 MHz to enable a high power service in Melbourne to operate on that frequency.

One wide coverage AM frequency, currently in use for open narrowcasting until

31 December 1998, is potentially available.

In addition, a high power AM frequency is potentially available in Geelong (1341 kHz). This frequency was previously used for an AM commercial radio service before its conversion to the FM band.

#### **Colac**

In the Colac market, the ABA has identified 104.7 MHz as a frequency that could potentially be used for a wide coverage FM service.

## Brisbane:

### up to six high power FM radio channels available

The ABA has identified six high power FM radio channels as being potentially available in the Brisbane radio market, subject to FM channel demand at the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

Potentially available radio frequencies and proposed changes to existing services are contained in an information booklet on the Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Lismore and Murwillumbah commercial radio markets.

The ABA has identified a medium power channel as potentially available for use at Beaudesert, in the Brisbane market.

For the Gold Coast, the ABA has identified four high power channels as potentially available, subject to FM channel demand in Brisbane.

One high power and one low power AM channel, for-

merly used at the Gold Coast, are potentially available for use in either the Brisbane, Gold Coast or Murwillumbah markets.

For the Nambour market the ABA has identified one high power and two medium FM channels as potentially available, as well as one high power AM channel.

In the Lismore market, one high power FM channel is potentially available, as well as local coverage FM channels for each of Byron Bay, Casino and Coraki.

In the Gympie market, the ABA has identified one high power and one medium power FM channel as potentially available for use, as well as one medium power FM channel for Noosa.

#### **Brisbane market**

The ABA has identified 94.9 MHz, 95.7 MHz, 96.5 MHz, 97.3 MHz, 98.1 MHz and

102.9 MHz as wide coverage FM channels that potentially could be used, subject to demand at the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. The availability of 102.9 MHz in Brisbane is dependent on a frequency change of community radio service 4DDB Toowoomba.

The ABA has identified 92.1 MHz for a medium power channel which is potentially available in Beaudesert.

Two AM channels (1197 kHz and 1593 kHz) are potentially available for use in one of the Brisbane, Gold Coast or Murwillumbah markets, depending on AM channel demand in these markets.

#### **Nambour**

The ABA has identified 91.1 MHz as being potentially available as a wide coverage FM channel, and 104.9 and 106.5 MHz as medium power services. AM channel 828 kHz

is also potentially available for use in the market.

#### **Gold Coast**

The ABA has identified 94.1 MHz, 94.9 MHz, 95.7 MHz and 96.5 MHz as potentially available wide coverage FM channels, subject to frequency demand in Brisbane.

#### **Lismore market**

The ABA has identified as potentially available the wide coverage channels of: 98.5 MHz for Lismore; 91.3 MHz for Byron Bay; 107.9 MHz for Casino and 88.9 MHz for Coraki.

#### **Gympie market**

The ABA has identified a medium coverage channel (91.5 MHz) and a wide coverage channel (94.5 MHz) as potentially available; and for Noosa, a medium power service that could potentially operate on 101.3 MHz.