



The ABA decided to allocate a new community radio licence for Gympie, Queensland during February 2002.

New community radio licence for Gympie, Qld

The ABA has decided to allocate a new community radio licence for Gympie, Queensland.

The licence was allocated to Cooloola Christian Radio Association to serve the Christian community. The new service will broadcast on 91.5 MHz on the FM band. The permanent licence will commence on 1 April 2002.

'The proposed service will add to the range and diversity of services in the Gympie region,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman. 'The applicant satisfied the ABA it would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the Christian community in the Gympie region.'

The ABA has allocated this licence after community consultation during the licence area planning process and during the assessment process.

The Cooloola Christian Radio Association service currently operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as a temporary community broadcaster. It will continue to operate on 91.5 MHz with the permanent licence. The proposed service

will provide programs that will cover a wide range of local events, council activities, tourism, children/youth programs and Christian music that will appeal to many different people across the Gympie Christian community.

The Gympie area is currently served by the ABC and SBS national television services and three commercial television services TNQ, RTQ and STQ.

Radio services in the Gympie area include a mix of four national services: 4ABC FM, 4GM, 4ABCRN and 4SCR/T (Coast FM); and two commercial services: 4NNN and 4GY. No permanent community radio service has operated in the Gympie area.

In the radio licence area plan for the Gympie region, released on 21 December 2000, the ABA determined one new community FM radio broadcasting services be made available in Gympie. The ABA invited applications for the licence, SL1150117, on 26 October 2001.

Background

Community licence allocation

Part 6 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, provides for the allocation of community broadcasting licences.

The ABA uses a merit based allocation process where applicants compete on the basis of merit for the licence. The process includes opportunity for the public to comment on applications received.

The ABA must also have regard to:

- (a) the extent to which the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community within the licence area of the proposed service;
- (b) the nature and diversity of the interests of that community;
- (c) the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services (including national broadcasting services) available within that licence area;
- (d) the capacity of the applicant to provide the proposed service;

(e) the undesirability of one person being in a position to exercise control of more than one community broadcasting licence that is a broadcasting services bands licence in the same licence area; and

(f) the undesirability of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory or a political party being in a position to exercise control of a community broadcasting licence.

The Minister may also give directions to the ABA to give priority to a particular community interest or interests.



To contact the new licensee, please call Mr Gordon Thomason, President on (07) 5482 1769.