

New community radio licences for Mackay and Sanctuary Point

ACMA has allocated new community radio licences to the Mackay and District Aboriginal and Islander Media Association Inc (MDAIMA), to serve the Mackay region of Queensland, and to Bay and Basin Community Resources Inc (BBCR), to serve the Sanctuary Point region of New South Wales. These services will add to the range and diversity of services in their areas.

The Mackay service will broadcast on 105.9 MHz on the FM band. MDAIMA is currently broadcasting on this

frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expired on 5 June 2006. The permanent licence commenced on 6 June 2006.

The Mackay area is served by four national radio services (4ABCFM, 4ABCRN, 4QAA and 4JJJ); four commercial radio services (4MK, 4RGM, 4MKY and 4MMK); and one community broadcasting service (4CRM – general format). Mackay is also served by two national television services (ABC and SBS) and three commercial television services (Channel

Seven, Southern Cross Ten and WIN TV).

ACMA invited applications for the Mackay community broadcasting licence (SL1150019) in December 2005 and MDAIMA was the only valid applicant. Its application was assessed with particular regard to whether the proposed service would meet the needs of the Indigenous community in the Mackay area. MDAIMA currently operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and the proposed service will have programs covering local issues that will appeal to the

local Indigenous community.

The Sanctuary Point service will broadcast on 92.7 MHz on the FM band. BBCR is currently broadcasting on this frequency under a temporary community broadcasting licence that expires on 1 June 2006. The permanent community radio broadcasting licence will commence on 2 June 2006.

The Sanctuary Point area is currently served by one national radio service (2RN); two commercial radio services (2ST and 2WSK); and one community broadcasting service (2UUU – general format). Sanctuary Point is also served by two national television services (ABC and SBS) and three commercial television services (Prime, Southern Cross Ten and WIN TV).

ACMA invited applications for the Sanctuary Point community broadcasting licence (SL1150818) on 1 April 2005. BBCR was the only applicant. BBCR currently operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The proposed service will provide programs that cover local issues and appeal to the community living within the Sanctuary Point region.

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCE ALLOCATION

Part 6 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* provides for the allocation of community broadcasting licences. Applicants are required to compete for licences on the basis of merit and there is an opportunity for the public to comment on applications. In considering applications, ACMA must have regard to:

- 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
- the nature and diversity of the interests of that community
- the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services (including national broadcasting services) available within that licence area
- the capacity of the applicant to provide the proposed service
- 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
- 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.

TEMPORARY COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES

Licences allocated 1–23 May 2006

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
Qld	Mossman RA2	4CCC Coral Coast Country Community Radio Inc.	General	100.1 MHz	16/5/06	15/5/07	15/5/06
NSW	Young RA2	Lambing Flat Community Broadcasting Inc.	General	92.3 MHz	1/7/06	31/12/06	22/5/06