



## Current analog TV channels confirmed for Riverland and Spencer Gulf

The ABA has confirmed the current channel arrangements for television services in the Riverland and Spencer Gulf areas of South Australia.

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 determined the Riverland and Spencer Gulf television licence area plans in 1996. In Spencer Gulf North, the ABA made channel 34 available for GTS in the event that transmissions on channel 4 became unreliable and unmain-  
tainable. In the Riverland, the

ABA made channels 33 and 36 available in Renmark/Loxton as replacement channels for ABR53 and RTS5A. The ABA decisions accompanying the licence area plan indicated a timeframe of June 2006 for the channel clearances to take place.

In variations to the television licence area plans for the Spencer Gulf and Riverland released today, the ABA has decided to remove the alternative channel capacity detailed above. In addition, the ABA has decided to vary the technical specifications of the analog television services in these areas to reflect the current operating conditions.

The variations to the Riverland and Spencer Gulf licence area plans are available from the ABA web site or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667. □

## FM channel for 2LM in Kyogle

The ABA has decided to make additional channel capacity available for the existing commercial service 2LM Lismore to operate a translator in Kyogle, NSW. The translator will operate on 104.3 MHz in the FM band.

'The ABA's decision follows consideration of a request from the licensee of 2LM, Richmond River Broadcasters Pty Ltd, to enable it to resolve reception deficiencies in the region,' said Professor Flint.

The additional FM channel capacity has been planned by the ABA under the Commercial Radio Blackspots Program. This program is an Australian Government initiative which will provide \$5 million over three years to deliver new or improved commercial radio services to regional and remote communities where it has not been commercially viable for licensees to provide coverage. The program will ensure that greater access to commercial radio services is provided to a large number of people located in regional and remote Australia. □

The ABA has also made FM channel capacity available to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in the Richmond/Tweed area for a future national radio service providing coverage to Lismore.

'This is part of the ABA's ongoing commitment to reserve channel capacity for the possible future provision of the full range of ABC radio services to communities or regional transmission areas with a population of 10 000 people or more,' said Professor Flint.

The decisions are contained in a variation to the radio licence area plan for Lismore, released today.

In December 2000, the ABA determined the Lismore radio licence area plan. The licence areas in the plan were designated using 1996 Census data. The ABA has now redefined the licence areas using 2001 Census data.

The variation to the Lismore licence area plan is available from the ABA web site or by calling Freecall 1800 226 667. □