Draft Variation to the licence area plan for Remote Central and Eastern Australia – No.1 of 2011

The yellow area of the maps below indicates these licence areas

Remote Commercial Radio Service North East Zone RA1
Licenced to 4RBL and 4BRZ which are owned by the same company

Remote Commercial Radio Service Central Zone RA1
Licenced to 8SAT

Within these zones:
- 4RBL has 59 low powered FM transmitters
- 4BRZ has 28 low powered FM transmitters
- 8SAT has 29 low powered FM transmitters

These numbers include the new requests.

The coverage areas of these transmitters only cover their immediate surrounds.

It appears that these broadcasters are not available for reception using VAST or Aurora satellite receivers. The disadvantage of these receivers is that they cannot be used in moving vehicles and are not portable radios.

26 MHz DRM shower antenna system is ideal for alpine and areas in the Great Dividing Range, whereas lower frequencies would be better for inland areas.

Considering the large area of this zone, is not covered and VHF FM is not capable of very large area coverage, Digital radio: DRM30 should be considered instead. DRM digital radio is much more energy efficient than FM or AM¹.

DRM30 transmitters are readily available and there are receivers
http://www.drm.org/news_item/Pictures_of_DRM_Receivers_at_IBC_Amsterdam_now_on_flickr

If all receivers contained an inexpensive GPS receiver and the appropriate firmware, area specific messages could be included in the transmissions and be selected by the receiver if it is in the specified area only.

Remote Commercial Radio Service Western zone licenced to 6FMS and 6SAT has similar problems of covering very large areas with a low population density.

In conclusion I have no objection to the proposals, however with the use of DRM these transmitters may become redundant

Alan Hughes