Explanatory Paper
Draft Variation to the Licence Area Plan – Remote Central and Eastern Australia Radio – No 1 of 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011
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Submissions

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is seeking public comment on a proposed Draft Variation to the Licence Area Plan – Remote Central and Eastern Australia Radio – No.1 of 2011.

Submissions can be made as follows:

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The closing date for submissions is 5.00 pm, Friday 28 October 2011.

All submissions received will be made available for public inspection on the ACMA’s web site at http://www.acma.gov.au.

Under subsection 27(2) of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (BSA), the ACMA is required to make all submissions available for public inspection. Any submission marked ‘In confidence’, ‘Confidential’ or similar, will not be considered by the ACMA in finalising the LAP variation.
Explanatory Note

This explanatory paper accompanies the proposed Draft Variation to the Licence Area Plan – Remote Central and Eastern Radio – No.1 of 2011.

The broadcast planning functions of the ACMA are set out in Part 3 of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (BSA). The BSA requires the ACMA to promote the objects of the Act\(^1\) including the economic and efficient use of radiofrequency spectrum, and to have regard to the planning criteria set out in section 23.

Licence area plans (LAPs) are made under subsection 26(1) of the BSA. LAPs determine the number and characteristics, including technical specifications, of broadcasting services in particular areas of Australia with the use of the broadcasting services bands.

The ACMA may vary LAPs under subsection 26(2) of the BSA.

The object of most obvious relevance to the ACMA’s powers in relation to section 26 of the BSA is that at paragraph (a) of subsection 3(1), that being:

\[
\text{to promote the availability to audiences throughout Australia of a diverse range of radio and television services offering entertainment, education and information.}
\]

Section 27 of the BSA provides that the ACMA must make provision for wide public consultation when considering whether to make or vary a LAP.

The ACMA refers to the General Approach to Analog Planning when it considers the planning of broadcasting services. This document sets out the legislative framework and planning criteria as well as the general approach to the planning of broadcasting services. It also contains a record of advice and assumptions about matters relevant to the ACMA’s functions and powers under Part 3 (see subsection 27(2) of the BSA).

This document can be obtained from the ACMA’s web site at:

The LAP – Remote Central and Eastern Australia Radio (Remote LAP) was determined in October 1996. The LAP contains two commercial radio licence areas, the Remote Commercial Radio Service Central Zone (RCZ) and the Remote Commercial Radio Service North East Zone (RNEZ), and three commercial radio broadcasting services, 8SAT, 4RBL and 4BRZ.

W & L Phillips Pty Ltd (Flow FM) is the current licensee of the 8SAT service that serves the RCZ licence area. Rebel Radio Network Pty Ltd (Rebel) is the current licensee of the 4RBL and 4BRZ services, which serve the RNEZ licence area.

Flow FM and Rebel have requested that the ACMA consider varying the Remote LAP to make new FM frequencies available or change existing technical specifications for their services at various locations throughout their licence areas. These locations and requests are highlighted at Table 1:

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|}
\hline
\text{Service} & \text{Request} & \text{Locations} \\
\hline
4RBL & \text{make additional FM channel capacity available} & \text{Aurukun, Bamaga, Clermont, Goondiwindi, Gununa, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Theodore and Yungaburra.} \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

\(^1\) Part 1, Section 3 of the BSA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4RBL</td>
<td>change existing technical specifications</td>
<td>Barrington/Stratford and Chinchilla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4BRZ</td>
<td>make additional FM channel capacity available</td>
<td>Alpha, Banana, Barrington/Stratford, Clermont, Collinsville, Dirranbandi, Goondiwindi, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Normanton, Taroom, Tenterfield, Theodore, Wandoan, Wilcannia and Yungaburra.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4BRZ</td>
<td>change existing technician specifications</td>
<td>Chinchilla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8SAT</td>
<td>make additional FM channel capacity available</td>
<td>Hawker, Lake Cargelligo and Minnipa.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After considering these requests, and in the context of the information contained in the ACMA’s ‘General Approach to Analog Planning’ and the factors listed in section 23 of the BSA, the ACMA has reached the following preliminary views, namely that it should:

1. **at Hawker, Lake Cargelligo and Minnipa** make new FM frequencies available for additional transmitters for the 8SAT service *(Preliminary Views 1, 2 and 3)*;
2. **at Aurukun, Bamaga, Gununa, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw and Theodore** make new FM frequencies available for additional transmitters for the 4RBL service *(Preliminary View 4)*;
3. **at Barrington/Stratford** vary the existing 4RBL technical specification in the LAP to change its frequency and make a new FM frequency available for an additional transmitter for the 4BRZ service *(Preliminary View 5)*;
4. **at Chinchilla** vary the existing 4BRZ technical specifications in the LAP so that the frequencies are swapped *(Preliminary View 6)*;
5. **at Goondiwindi** make new FM frequencies available for additional transmitters for the 4RBL and 4BRZ services *(Preliminary View 7)*;
6. **at Alpha, Banana, Collinsville, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Taroom, Tenterfield and Wilcannia** change the technical specifications in the LAP for the 4RBL service to reflect actual operating conditions and at Alpha, Banana, Barrington/Stratford, Collinsville, Dirranbandi, Goondiwindi, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Normanton, Taroom, Tenterfield, Theodore, Wandoan and Wilcannia make new FM frequencies available for additional transmitters for the 4BRZ service *(Preliminary View 8)*;
7. **amend the definition of the RNEZ** to exclude census districts 0301502 and 030701 which contain parts of the communities of Clermont and Yungaburra *(Preliminary View 9)*; and
8. **make a minor amendment to Attachment 56.2 of the Remote LAP** to correct a previous drafting error *(Preliminary View 10)*.

Further discussion of these matters is set out in the ACMA’s preliminary views below.
Preliminary Views – Remote Commercial Radio Service
Central Zone RA1 – Commercial Radio

Preliminary View 1 – 8SAT – Hawker

The ACMA proposes to make channel capacity available for an additional transmitter at Hawker for the commercial radio broadcasting service 8SAT. It is proposed this service operates on:

• 88.7 MHz from Mt Plantagenet 28 km east of HAWKER with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 1 kilowatt (kW) with an omni-directional (OD) radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Flow FM has proposed that FM spectrum be made available for the establishment of its 8SAT service at Hawker, South Australia. Flow FM has proposed that this service operate a frequency to be determined by the ACMA with a maximum ERP of 1 kW using an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Assessment of this request has found that the FM frequency 88.7 MHz is available and is suitable for use as an additional transmitter for the 8SAT service. It has also been found that operation of the proposed service at 1 kW using an OD radiation pattern will provide an adequate grade of service to the intended coverage area.

On 25 June 2009, the ACMA agreed that the frequency 88.7 MHz would be made available temporarily for the provision of the 8SAT service until the Remote LAP could be varied, and subsequently issued a transmitter licence. This approach was adopted to expedite the commencement of the service.

The ACMA therefore proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to make available the FM frequency 88.7 MHz as described above for the 8SAT service at Hawker.

Preliminary View 2 – 8SAT – Lake Cargelligo

The ACMA proposes to make channel capacity available for an additional transmitter at Lake Cargelligo for the commercial radio broadcasting service 8SAT. It is proposed this service operates on:

• 101.5 MHz from Dept of Water Resources Site MT BOWEN with a maximum ERP of 5 kW with a directional (DA) radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Flow FM has proposed that FM spectrum be made available for the establishment of its 8SAT service at Lake Cargelligo, New South. Flow FM has proposed that this operates on FM frequency 101.5 with a maximum ERP of 2 kW using an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Assessment of this request has found that the FM frequency 101.5 MHz is available and is suitable for use as an additional transmitter for the 8SAT service. However, operation at 2 kW OD while providing a suburban grade of service to Lake Cargelligo would result in excessive and avoidable signal overspill in the community of Hillston. Hillston is located solely within the neighbouring Griffith RA1 licence area.
This suburban grade of overspill could be avoided if the 8SAT service adopted a DA radiation pattern with a restriction of 500 W towards Hillston.

It was also found if the maximum power level of the proposed 8SAT service in all directions, except towards Hillston was increased from 2 kW to 5 kW it would provide more extensive coverage to the surrounding RCZ licence area. Flow FM has indicated that it is supportive of the power increase.

On 25 June 2009, the ACMA agreed that the frequency 101.5 MHz would be made available temporarily for the provision of the 8SAT service until the Remote LAP could be varied, and subsequently issued a transmitter licence. This approach was adopted to expedite the commencement of the service.

The ACMA therefore proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to make available the FM frequency 101.5 MHz as described above for the 8SAT service at Lake Cargelligo.

**Preliminary View 3 – 8SAT – Minnipa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The ACMA proposes to make channel capacity available for an additional transmitter at Minnipa for the commercial radio broadcasting service 8SAT. It is proposed this service operates on:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106.9 MHz from Telstra site 34 km WSW of Wudinna MT DAMPER with a maximum ERP of 2 kW with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flow FM has proposed that FM spectrum be made available for the establishment of its 8SAT service at Minnipa, South Australia. Flow FM has proposed that this operates on FM frequency 106.1 MHz with a maximum ERP of 2 kW using an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Assessment of this request has found the proposed frequency 106.1 MHz is not available, as its use would cause adjacent channel interference to the reception of the 5JJJ radio service on 105.3 MHz at Wudinna in the Port Lincoln RA1 licence area. It was however found that the frequency 106.9 MHz is available is available and is suitable for use as an additional transmitter for the 8SAT service.

Operation at a maximum ERP of 2 kW will provide a suburban grade of service to the intended coverage area but will result in suburban grade signal overspill into Wudinna. Wudinna is an exclave of the Port Lincoln RA1 licence area that is entirely surrounded the RCZ and has a population 513 persons\(^2\). Map 1 shows the location of Wudinna in relation to these two licence areas.

\(^2\) 2006 census data.
In considering requests that would result in overspill, the ACMA takes account of whether the population outside the licence area that would be covered fortuitously with a usable radio signal is wholly disproportionate to the population that is ostensibly being served within the licence area and whether that overspill is into an urban centre\(^3\).

The proposed 8SAT service will provide coverage to 720\(^5\) persons in the RCZ and overspill 536 persons\(^5\) in the Port Lincoln RA1 licence area. If the population of Wudinna is excluded from this analysis then the overspill figure drops to 23 persons in the Port Lincoln RA1 licence being able to receive a signal from the proposed 8SAT Mt Damper service. Wudinna is not an urban centre according to the most recent census.

The ACMA has also considered whether the use of multiple low-power transmitters through the coverage area or a restriction in the radiation pattern towards Wudinna would make more efficient use of spectrum. The ACMA found that multiple low-power transmitters would not be spectrum efficient and not likely to be supported by Flow FM due to the cost of establishment, and that an antenna radiation pattern restriction would not significantly reduce any overspill but would result in those people and communities in the RCZ surrounding Wudinna not being able to receive a service.

Noting that Wudinna is an exclave of its parent licence area and not classified as an urban centre, the ACMA believes that overspill in this instance is unavoidable in allowing Flow FM to provide coverage to its licence area.

On 25 June 2009, the ACMA agreed that the frequency 106.9 MHz with a maximum ERP of 2 kW would be made available temporarily for the provision of the 8SAT service until the Remote LAP could be varied, and subsequently issued a transmitter licence. This approach was adopted to expedite the commencement of the service.

The ACMA therefore proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to make available the FM frequency 106.9 MHz as described above for the 8SAT service at Minnipa.

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\(^3\) An urban centre means an area designated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as an urban centre at the Census. In broad terms, an urban centre corresponds to a population cluster of 1,000 or more people.

\(^5\) 2006 census data.

\(^5\) 513 in Wudinna and 20 in the continuous Port Lincoln RA1 licence area.
Preliminary Views – Remote Commercial Radio Service North East Zone RA1 – Commercial Radio

Preliminary View 4 – 4RBL – Aurukun, Bamaga, Gununa, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Theodore

The ACMA proposes to make channel capacity available for additional transmitters at Aurukun, Bamaga, Gununa, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw and Theodore for the commercial radio broadcasting service 4RBL. It is proposed these services operate on:

- 104.5 MHz from Bracs Studio AURUKUN with a maximum ERP of 30 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 93.5 MHz from Broadcast Site Anu Street BAMAGA with a maximum ERP of 250 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 104.5 MHz from TV Site Gununa MORNINGTON ISLAND with a maximum ERP of 250 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 104.5 MHz from Bracs Site HOPE VALE with a maximum ERP of 30 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 102.9 MHz from Broadcast Site Training Centre KOWANYAMA with a maximum ERP of 30 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 102.9 MHz from Broadcast Site Community Hall Edward River PORMPURAAW with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 104.3 MHz from Rebel Media Broadcasting Site Leichhardt Highway THEODORE with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Beginning in 2002 and concluding in 2006, the Australian Government allocated $5 million to the Commercial Radio Blackspot Program. This program provided funding for improvements to commercial radio services in 142 identified ‘blackspot’ areas of poor reception.

Proposals for funding were subject to confirmation by the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) that a suitable frequency was available for the proposed service and that the proposal was consistent with the ABA’s licence area planning requirements.

Under this program, Rebel received funding for the establishment of its 4RBL service at number of locations including Aurukun, Bamaga, Gununa, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw and Theodore. At these locations the ABA confirmed that suitable FM frequencies were available, would not present any interference issues and that those frequencies could be made temporarily available until the Remote LAP could be varied.

This approach was adopted to expedite the commencement of the 4RBL services in each location and is the ACMA’s standard practice where the planning is not contentious and variation to the relevant LAP has not been proposed.
As the ACMA is now considering other commercial radio broadcasting issues for the Remote LAP, it believes it now appropriate that these frequencies be recorded in the LAP as available for commercial radio broadcasting purposes.

**Preliminary View 5 – 4RBL & 4BRZ – Barrington/Stratford**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The ACMA proposes to vary the technical specifications of the existing commercial radio broadcasting service 4RBL at Barrington/Stratford. It is proposed this service operates on:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 93.7 MHz from Kiaora Lookout GLOUCESTER with a maximum ERP of 200 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ACMA proposes to make channel capacity available for an additional transmitter at Barrington/Stratford for the commercial radio broadcasting service 4BRZ. It is proposed this service operates on:

| • 97.7 MHz from Rebel Media Site Kiaora Lookout GLOUCESTER with a maximum ERP of 200 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation. |

The Remote LAP currently makes the frequency 97.7 MHz available for the 4RBL service at Barrington/Stratford. Rebel has proposed that this frequency be made available for its 4BRZ service and that a new frequency be found for the 4RBL service. Rebel has requested this change because it currently provides its 4BRZ content on the frequency allocated for 4RBL.

Rebel has requested that the new 4RBL frequency be separated by at least 2 MHz from 97.7 MHz in order to reduce installation costs and that the both services operate with maximum ERP of 200 W OD.

Assessment of this request has found the FM frequency 93.7 MHz is available, meets Rebel’s planning requirements and is suitable for the provision of an additional transmitter for the 4RBL service. No interference either to or from the proposed service was found.

The ACMA therefore proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to make available the FM frequencies 93.7 and 97.7 MHz as described above for the 4RBL and 4BRZ services at Barrington/Stratford.

**Preliminary View 6 – 4RBL & 4BRZ – Chinchilla**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The ACMA proposes to vary the technical specifications of the existing commercial radio broadcasting services 4RBL and 4BRZ at Chinchilla. It is proposed these services operate on:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 97.1 MHz from Water Tower cnr Middle and Colamba Sts CHINCHILLA with a maximum ERP of 175 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 95.5 MHz from Water Tower cnr Middle and Colamba Sts CHINCHILLA with a maximum ERP of 175 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

The Remote LAP currently specifies that at Chinchilla the 4RBL service operates on FM frequency 95.5 MHz and the 4BRZ service operates on FM frequency 97.1 MHz.

Rebel has requested that the LAP be varied to swap the frequencies of these two services. The ACMA has considered the request and has found no obstacles to approving the request.
As such, the ACMA has already effected these changes to the respective 4RBL and 4BRZ transmitter licences and believes that making these changes to the Remote LAP at this time, although cosmetic, will ensure that it reflects the actual operating conditions of the 4RBL and 4BRZ services.

The ACMA therefore proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to make available the FM frequencies 96.5 and 97.1 MHz as described above for the 4RBL and 4BRZ services at Chinchilla.

**Preliminary View 7 – 4RBL & 4BRZ – Goondiwindi**

The ACMA proposes to make channel capacity available for additional transmitters at Goondiwindi for the commercial radio broadcasting services 4RBL and 4BRZ. It is proposed that these services operate on:

- 96.3 MHz from Council Depot Boundary Rd GOONDIWINDI with a maximum ERP of 500 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 98.7 MHz from Council Depot Boundary Rd GOONDIWINDI with a maximum ERP of 500 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

Goondiwindi is situated on the MacIntyre River in Queensland near the New South Wales border, 350 kilometres south-west of Brisbane. Most of the area surrounding the town is farmland.

Goondiwindi has a population of 5627\(^6\) and is defined as an urban centre according the most recent census. The urban centre of Goondiwindi is split between the RNEZ and the neighbouring Moree RA1 licence. Map 2 shows the location of the Goondiwindi urban area (shaded pink) in relation to these two licence areas. The RNEZ portion of Goondiwindi has a population of 914\(^7\) persons while the Moree RA1 licence portion has 4,713\(^8\) persons.

**Map 2**
Rebel has requested that FM spectrum be made available for the 4RBL and 4BRZ services to serve those parts of the Goondiwindi and surrounding areas within the RNEZ. Rebel has requested that the ACMA propose appropriate frequencies, power levels and radiation patterns to serve the township with an adequate grade of service and to meet requirements of the coverage area.

Assessment of this request has found the FM frequencies 96.3 and 98.7 MHz are available and, if operated at 500 W OD, would provide a suburban grade of service to Goondiwindi, and are suitable for use as additional transmitters for the 4RBL and 4BRZ services.

The ACMA has found that it is not possible for Rebel to provide coverage to their portion of Goondiwindi without signal overspilling into the Moree portion of Goondiwindi. Nor is it possible to mitigate overspill by adopting a directional radiation pattern without adversely affecting proposed coverage in the RNEZ portion of Goondiwindi.

On 2 July 2007, the ACMA agreed that the frequencies 96.3 and 98.7 MHz at 500 W OD would be made available temporarily for the provision of the 4RBL and 4BRZ services until the Remote LAP could be varied and subsequently issued transmitter licences. This approach was adopted to expedite the commencement of the services.

As the services have been licensed for a considerable time and no complaints of interference or overspill been received, the ACMA proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to make available the FM frequencies 96.3 and 98.7 MHz at 500 W OD as described above for the 4RBL and 4BRZ services at Goondiwindi.

Preliminary View 8 – 4RBL & 4BRZ – Alpha, Banana, Collinsville, Dirranbandi, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Normanton, Taroom, Tenterfield, Theodore, Wandoan, Wilcannia

The ACMA proposes to vary the technical specifications of the existing commercial radio broadcasting services 4RBL at Alpha, Banana, Collinsville, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Normanton, Taroom, Tenterfield and Wilcannia. It is proposed these services operate on:

- 95.9 MHz from Broadcast Site Water Tower Dryden St ALPHA with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 88.9 MHz from Rebel Media Site Banana Range BANANA with a maximum ERP of 500 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 94.9 MHz from Bowen Council Site 3.7 km NNW of Collinsville MT DEVLIN with a maximum ERP of 250 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 99.5 MHz from McKinlay Shire Council Site Water Tower Burke Street JULIA CREEK with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 98.1 MHz from Broadcast Site Water Tower KARUMBA with a maximum ERP of 50 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 94.5 MHz from Council/Government/Tebbits Site 8 km E of Miles off Warrego Hwy MILES HILL with a maximum ERP of 500 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
- 105.1 MHz Broadcast Site Lovedays Hill BANCROFT with a maximum ERP of 900 W with a DA radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
• 102.1 MHz from Broadcast Site Water Tower Cranmer St TAROOM with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 93.7 MHz from New Tenterfield Council Site 7 km SW of Tenterfield MT MACKENZIE with a maximum ERP of 4 kW with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 104.7 MHz from Council Water Tower 16-34 Hood St WILCANNIA with a maximum ERP of 50 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

The ACMA also proposes to make channel capacity available for additional transmitters at Alpha, Banana, Collinsville, Dirranbandi, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Normanton, Tarooom, Tenterfield, Theodore, Wandoan and Wilcannia for the commercial radio broadcasting service 4BRZ. It is proposed these services operate on:

• 99.1 MHz from Broadcast Site Water Tower Dryden St ALPHA with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 89.7 MHz from Rebel Media Site Banana Range BANANA with a maximum ERP of 500 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 90.1 MHz from Bowen Council Site 3.7 km NNW of Collinsville MT DEVLIN with a maximum ERP of 250 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 94.1 MHz from Water Tower DIRRANBANDI with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 96.3 MHz from McKinlay Shire Council Site Water Tower Burke Street JULIA CREEK with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 101.3 MHz from Broadcast Site Water Tower KARUMBA with a maximum ERP of 50 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 92.9 MHz from Council/Government/Tebbits Site 8 km E of Miles off Warrego Hwy MILES HILL with a maximum ERP of 500 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 100.5 MHz Broadcast Site Lovedays Hill BANCROFT with a maximum ERP of 900 W with a DA radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 104.1 MHz from Broadcast Site Hospital Hill NORMANTON with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 104.5 MHz from Broadcast Site Water Tower Cranmer St TAROOM with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 102.5 MHz from New Tenterfield Council Site 7 km SW of Tenterfield MT MACKENZIE with a maximum ERP of 4 kW with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 97.9 MHz from Rebel Media Broadcasting Site Leichhardt Highway THEODORE with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 96.5 MHz from Water Tower WANDOAN with a maximum ERP of 100 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.

• 101.5 MHz from Council Water Tower 16-34 Hood St WILCANNIA with a maximum ERP of 50 W with an OD radiation pattern with mixed polarisation.
At Alpha, Banana, Collinsville, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Taroom, Tenterfield and Wilcannia the 4RBL services are licensed to operate from alternate transmission sites to those nominated in the remote LAP. Before considering the requests for the 4BRZ services, the ACMA proposes that the existing 4RBL services as specified in the LAP be amended to reflect their operation.

Rebel has requested that its proposed 4BRZ services at Alpha, Banana, Collinsville, Dirranbandi, Julia Creek, Karumba, Miles, Monto, Normanton, Taroom, Tenterfield, Theodore, Wandoan, and Wilcannia operate with the same technical specifications as currently licensed to the 4RBL services.

When planning commercial radio broadcasting services, the ACMA assumes, subject to technical capacity, that additional commercial radio broadcasting services in a licence area match the coverage of any existing commercial services of that type.

As a result, the ACMA has conducted broadcast engineering assessments at each location and has identified a frequency that is suitable, will not result in interference and matches the other existing 4RBL technical parameters. This will ensure that the proposed 4BRZ services match the coverage that is currently planned for the existing 4RBL services.

The ACMA therefore proposes that the Remote LAP be varied as described above to amend existing 4RBL technical specifications and make available additional FM frequencies available for the 4BRZ service.

**Preliminary View 9 – 4RBL & 4BRZ – Clermont and Yungaburra**

- The ACMA proposes to amend the definition of the Remote Commercial Radio Service North East Zone RA1 licence area to exclude collection districts 031502 and 030701 which contain parts of the communities of Clermont and Yungaburra.

Rebel has requested that FM spectrum be made available for the establishment of its 4RBL and 4BRZ services at Clermont and Yungaburra, Queensland.

**Clermont**

The urban centre of Clermont contains five collection districts (CDs) that together form a total population of 18,555 persons. All five CDs are contained in the Emerald RA1 licence area. CD 031502 is also contained in the RNEZ and has a population of 291 persons. Clermont is approximately 65 kilometres at its nearest point to the RNEZ and this is illustrated at Map 3.

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9 031502, 031506, 031507, 031508 and 031509.

10 2006 census data.

11 2006 census data.
Map 3

Map 4 shows the relationship between the RNEZ (shaded yellow) and urban centre of Clermont (black boundary).

Map 4

Yungaburra
The community of Yungaburra contains two CDs\(^{12}\) that together form a total population of 930\(^{13}\) persons. Both CDs are contained in the Atherton RA1 licence area. CD 030701 is also contained in the RNEZ and has a population of 524\(^{14}\) persons. Yungaburra is approximately 10 kilometres at its nearest point to the RNEZ as illustrated at Map 5.

\(^{12}\) 030701 and 030712.
\(^{13}\) 2006 census data.
\(^{14}\) 2006 census data.
Map 5 shows the relationship between the RNEZ (shaded yellow) and community of Yungaburra (black boundary).

Map 6 shows the relationship between the RNEZ (shaded yellow) and community of Yungaburra (black boundary).

Both the Clermont and Yungaburra CDs contained in the RNEZ are exlags of the RNEZ and it would not be possible to provide coverage of these areas from transmitters planned in the continuous RNEZ.

In considering these requests the ACMA has found the inclusion of these two communities in the RNEZ is due to an administrative oversight during the conversion of the RNEZ to 1991 census data, sometime before the determination of the Remote LAP in 1996.

The ACMA assumes that the licence areas of existing commercial broadcasting services represent accepted media markets and will not vary them without good reason, other than to update them where boundaries are based on outdated census...
descriptions. Where it believes an error has occurred during those conversions then it should, where possible, correct that error.

Removing these communities from the RNEZ will result in the RNEZ population being reduced by 815 persons or 0.5% of the total population. The RNEZ currently has a population of 194,354 persons\textsuperscript{15}.

Therefore, based on the assumption that the inclusion of Clermont and Yungaburra is an administrative oversight and removing them will not adversely affect either community, the ACMA proposes that the Remote LAP be varied to amend the definition of the RNEZ to exclude CDs 0301502 and 030701, which contain part of the communities of Clermont and Yungaburra.

The amended licence area is shown in the document “Licence Area Maps” that accompanies this explanatory paper and described at Attachment 2.1 of the draft variation to the LAP for Remote Central and Eastern Australia – No.1 of 2011.

\textsuperscript{15} 2006 census data.
The ACMA proposes to amend Attachment 56.2 of the Remote LAP to correct a previous drafting error.

The ACMA proposes to amend Attachment 56.2 of the Remote LAP. This attachment contains the characteristics, including technical specifications, of the community radio broadcasting services in the Gin Gin area.

The proposed amendment to Attachment 56.2 is the addition of the word “Radio”, so that the heading of the attachment reads “LICENCE AREA PLAN : Remote Central and Eastern Australia Radio”.