Explanatory Paper

Draft Variation to Licence Area Plan
Scottsdale, TAS
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Call for Submissions

Submissions on the matters raised in this Explanatory Paper may be made to the ABA as follows:

By email: lapvariation@aba.gov.au

By mail: Draft LAP Variation – Scottsdale
Australian Broadcasting Authority
PO Box 34
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

By fax:(02) 6253 3277

Please quote file reference 2004/0507 in your reply.

Any enquiries concerning matters raised in this document should be directed to Christopher Roberts on (02) 6256 2863.

The closing date for submissions is 5.00pm, 9 June 2005.

All submissions received will be made available for public inspection on the ABA website.

1 Note that any submission marked “In Confidence”, “Confidential” or similar, cannot be considered by the ABA in finalising the LAP variation.
Preliminary View – Community Radio – Break O Day

The ABA proposes to make channel capacity available in the FM Band for the Break O Day community radio service at Bicheno, TAS as follows:

- 7BOD to operate on 98.5 MHz from Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS) building on the Tasman Highway, Bicheno with a maximum ERP of 200 W, mixed polarisation, omni-directional.

In June 2004, the ABA varied the Scottsdale LAP which included an extension of the Break O Day RA1 licence area to include the towns of Bicheno and Coles Bay and redefinition of the licence area using 2001 Census boundaries. At that stage the ABA had not identified any spectrum to enable service to these areas.

On 31 January 2005, Break O Day FM Inc submitted an application to transmit their existing service to Bicheno, TAS on 93.7 MHz at 200 watts. The ABA assessed the use of this frequency as unsuitable and instead has found the frequency 98.5 MHz at a maximum ERP of 200 watts to be a suitable alternative for the transmission of the Break O Day service to Bicheno, TAS.

Bicheno is located on the eastern sea board of Tasmania, a remote locality surrounded by rugged terrain. The town of Bicheno is located approximately 36 km to the south south-east of St Marys in the Break O Day RA1 licence area.

The township of Bicheno has limited radio services available, with only two national services, 7ABCRR and 7ABCRN. These services are low powered and only provide coverage to the township itself. Currently, Bicheno has no localised radio broadcasting services.

The towns of Bicheno and Coles Bay also nominally lie within the Hobart RA1 community licence area. However, given the local terrain, any reception of these community services in the areas of Bicheno and Coles Bay is likely to be poor.