

ATTACHMENT C: BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY BROADCASTING

The category of service, community broadcasting, was introduced with the introduction of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the BSA). Community broadcasting under the BSA was formed from the merger of two categories of service that existed under the Broadcasting Act 1942, public broadcasting and BRACS services (remote Aboriginal services).

Prior to the commencement of the BSA, there were 107 public radio licences and about 150 BRACS licences on issue.

In the period between 5 October 2005, the commencement of the BSA, and 30 June 2005, the commencement of ACMA, the ABA allocated approximately 165 community broadcasting licences.

ACMA has allocated a total of 15 community broadcasting licences since 1 July 2005.

There are currently 437 community broadcasting licences on issue, consisting of:

- 277 community radio broadcasting licences;
- 4 community television licences;
- 156 RIBS (ex-BRACS) community licences – 78 television and 78 radio.

Community broadcasting in the Perth area

The first community radio licences in Perth were allocated by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal (ABT) as public broadcasting licences under the Broadcasting Act 1942. In 1976 the ABT allocated the 6NR licence to Curtin University and in 1977 6RTR was allocated to Arts Radio Ltd.

The Curtin University service (6NR) provided a range of programming including educational, ethnic, Christian and Aboriginal. During the 1980s a need was identified for additional community radio services in Perth. A Christian service (6SON) was licensed in 1988, an ethnic service (6EBA) in 1990, a print handicapped service (6RPH) in 1991, and an Indigenous service in 1992.

In 1988, that ABT allocated a licence to serve Fremantle (6CCR).

In 2001, the ABA completed a licence area plan for the Perth area making spectrum available for an additional Perth-wide service and for four additional sub-metro services (Armadale, Fremantle, Kalamunda and Wanneroo).

The Perth-wide licence utilising 101.7 MHz was allocated to Groove FM in March 2003. Prior to the allocation the frequency was shared by Groove and Capital Community

Radio to provide temporary services. Capital Community Radio applied for the licence but was unsuccessful.

After its unsuccessful licence application, Capital Community Radio identified the frequency 90.5 MHz. The ABA subsequently made the spectrum available for temporary community broadcasting. From August 2003 to date, Capital Community Radio and Western Sports Media have been sharing the frequency to provide temporary community services.

Perth-wide services

6NR (100.1 MHz)	Provides community programming including news and current affairs, education, information and music for a mature aged audience
6RTR (92.1 MHz)	Provides non-commercial programming including news, current affairs, information and alternative contemporary music
6SON (98.5 MHz)	Provides Christian programming including news, information, talk and music
6EBA (95.3 MHz)	Provides multilingual programs including news, information and music
6RPH (990 kHz)	Provides a reading service for the sight impaired
6YMS (101.7 MHz)	Provides youth programming

Sub-metro services

6CCR Fremantle (107.9 MHz)	Provides non-commercial programming including news, current affairs, information, music and multilingual programs
6PCR Fremantle (91.3 MHz)	Provides programming for the Portuguese community
6HFM Armadale (107.3 MHz)	Provides non-commercial programming including news, current affairs, information and alternative contemporary music
6KCR Kalamunda (102.5 MHz)	Provides non-commercial programming including current affairs, information and easy listening/jazz music
6TCR Wanneroo (89.7 MHz)	Provides non-commercial programming including news, current affairs, information and alternative contemporary music

