

Varying the Riverland and Mount Gambier TLAPs

Consultation paper

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Issues for comment

We are seeking comments on proposed changes to the [Television Licence Area Plan \(Riverland\) 2011](#) (Riverland TLAP) and [Television Licence Area Plan \(Mount Gambier/South East\) 2011](#) (Mount Gambier/South East TLAP).

We welcome your feedback on the issues raised in this paper, or on any issues relevant to the proposed variation.

The draft Television Licence Area Plans (South Australia) (Consolidation) Variation 2025 (No. 1), which gives effect to the proposed changes, is available alongside this paper on the consultation page.

Details on making a submission can be found in the [Invitation to comment](#) section of this document.

Introduction

Planning broadcasting services

Our broadcasting planning functions are set out in Part 3 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the BSA). We promote the objects of the BSA (section 3), including the economic and efficient use of radiofrequency spectrum. We are guided by the planning criteria set out in section 23 of the BSA.

When planning broadcasting services, we refer to the [ACMA approach to broadcast planning and varying LAPs](#). This provides an overview of the regulatory framework, policy objectives and planning process for broadcasting services.

Under subsection 26(1B) of the BSA, we must prepare television licence area plans (TLAPs) that determine the number and characteristics – including technical specifications – of television broadcasting services that are to be available in areas of Australia. The BSA also provides us with a power to vary TLAPs.

In proposing to vary the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East TLAPs, we have considered the planning criteria outlined in section 23 of the BSA. This requires us to promote the objects of the BSA, including the economic and efficient use of spectrum when planning broadcasting services. As this variation is intended to reflect existing broadcasting arrangements and involves changes that are primarily technical in nature, particular consideration was given to developments in technology under paragraph 23(d).

Advancements in technology now enable the transmission of a greater number of television broadcasting services using a single transmitter, without any reduction in quality.

Overview of the Riverland TLAP

The Riverland TLAP determines the licence area of Riverland TV1. The population of the Riverland TV1 licence area is 35,007.¹

For the Riverland TV1 licence area, the Riverland TLAP plans the following services:

- 2 national television broadcasting services
- 3 commercial television broadcasting services.

WIN Television SA Pty Ltd holds the 3 commercial television broadcasting services, with licence numbers BSL1130145, BSL1150796 and BSL10174.

Several commercial, national and community radio broadcasting services, and open narrowcasting radio services, are provided in the Riverland TV1 licence area.

Overview of the Mount Gambier/South East TLAP

The Mount Gambier/South East TLAP determines the licence area of Mount Gambier/South East TV1. The population of the Mount Gambier/South East TV1 licence area is 72,474.²

¹ As determined by the ACMA under section 30 of the BSA. See [Broadcasting Services \(Licence Area Population\) Determination 2023](#)

² As determined by the ACMA under section 30 of the BSA. See [Broadcasting Services \(Licence Area Population\) Determination 2023](#)

For the Mount Gambier/South East TV1 licence area, the Mount Gambier/South East TLAP plans the following services:

- 2 national television broadcasting services
- 3 commercial television broadcasting services.

WIN Television holds the 3 commercial television broadcasting services, with licence numbers BSL1130144, BSL1150799 and BSL10330.

Several commercial, national and community radio broadcasting services, and open narrowcasting radio services, are provided in the Mount Gambier/South East TV1 licence area.

Consolidating broadcasting services on one transmitter

We are required to issue transmitter licences to commercial television broadcasting licensees under section 102 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (Radcoms Act).

A section 102 transmitter licence authorises the operation of a transmitter for transmitting only the commercial television broadcasting services provided under the licensee's related commercial television broadcasting licence.

The Radcoms Act was amended on 11 December 2024 by the *Communications Legislation Amendment (Regional Broadcasting Continuity) Act 2024* (RBC Act).

Under new subsection 102AE(1) of the Radcoms Act, commercial broadcasting licensees can ask the ACMA to make a transmitter consolidation declaration under subsection 102AE(3). The declaration has the effect that, among other things, a specified section 102 transmitter licence authorises the operation of a transmitter for the transmission of the commercial broadcasting services provided under 2 commercial broadcasting licences.

If we declare that licence to be a consolidated licence, the section 102 transmitter licence for the second of those 2 commercial broadcasting licences is taken to be surrendered.

If we are considering whether to make a consolidation declaration, we will generally first consult on a proposal to vary the relevant TLAP to allot a single channel for the broadcasting services to be transmitted under the consolidated licence.

We will generally make any consolidation declaration at the same time as varying the relevant TLAP. We can make the date of both the transmitter consolidation and the TLAP variation retrospective (items 15 and 18 of Schedule 1 to the RBC Act).

Transmitter consolidation nominations from WIN Television

WIN Television has asked us to make transmitter consolidation declarations so it can transmit services under 2 commercial television broadcasting licences on the same transmitters in both the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East TV1 licence areas.

WIN Television has nominated which transmitter licences it wishes us to declare as the consolidated licences authorising the provision of services under 2 of its commercial television licences, in different parts of each licence areas.

We propose to make these transmitter consolidation declarations.

There will be no impact for viewers if we make these declarations, as the number of broadcasting services that are provided and the reception quality of the services will not be reduced from what they currently are because of the transmitter sharing arrangements.

Before we make the transmitter consolidation declarations, we will need to vary the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East TV1 TLAPs to:

- Vary the allotment of channels to WIN Television for the transmitters that will be transmitting the services of 2 commercial television broadcasting licences.
- Remove the allotment of channels to WIN Television for the transmitters that WIN Television is no longer using.

If we make these TLAP variations, we propose to proceed with making the transmitter consolidation declarations WIN Television has requested.

This will regularise the transmission arrangements already in place in the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East TV1 licence areas. WIN Television began transmitting the programming from Network Seven and Network Ten together on the same set of transmitters in the Riverland and Mount Gambier/South East TV1 licence areas on 18 April 2024.

We understand this arrangement will reduce capital and operating costs for the broadcaster, while maintaining the number and quality of broadcasting services for the viewers in the relevant areas.

As the date of the TLAP variation can have retrospective effect, we propose that the channel allotments for the shared transmitters have effect from 18 April 2024. The transmitter consolidation declaration, if made, will also take effect from that date.

Proposal: Riverland

We propose to vary Schedule 1 to the Riverland TLAP to allot the following channels to the licensee of both BSL1130145 and BSL1150796, with an allotment date of 18 April 2024:

Channel	General area served
32	Renmark/Loxton
49	Karte IBL
45	Lameroo
45	Morgan
37	Pinnaroo
50	Waikerie

We propose to make minor changes to the headings of the tables in Schedule 1 and to the notes to the tables. It will include adding a note to the effect that the one channel may be allotted to 2 or more different broadcasters, for use in the same part of the one licence area, where the ACMA has made a declaration under section 102AE of the Radcoms Act in relation to the broadcasters' transmitter licences.

We also propose to make changes to the channels allotted to the licensee of BSL10174, and to the channels not allotted to any commercial television broadcasting licensee, in Lameroo and Pinnaroo. These changes will reflect current operating conditions and will not impact viewers.

The draft Television Licence Area Plans (South Australia) (Consolidation) Variation 2025 (No. 1) that would give effect to the proposed changes is available alongside this paper on the consultation page.

Preliminary view

We consider the proposal to vary the Riverland TLAP to allow WIN Television to consolidate its transmitter arrangements and to reflect current transmission arrangements is an economic and efficient use of spectrum. The proposal promotes the objects of the BSA, particularly:

- Paragraph 3(1)(a), as it would assist in the continued delivery of a diverse range of broadcasting services to the existing audience.
- Paragraph 3(1)(b), as it would facilitate the development of an efficient broadcasting industry.

Proposal: Mount Gambier/South East

We propose to vary Schedule 1 to the Mount Gambier/South East TLAP to allot the following channels to the licensee of both BSL1130144 and BSL1150799 with an allotment date of 18 April 2024:

Channel	General area served
29	South East
44	Bordertown
37	Keith
37	Kingston SE/Robe
44	Naracoorte
37	The Gap IBL

We propose to make minor changes to the headings of the tables in Schedule 1 and to the notes to the tables. It will include adding a note to the effect that the one channel may be allotted to 2 or more different broadcasters, for use in the same part of the one licence area, where the ACMA has made a declaration under section 102AE of the Radcoms Act in relation to the broadcasters' transmitter licences.

The draft Television Licence Area Plans (South Australia) (Consolidation) Variation 2025 (No. 1) that gives effect to the proposed changes is available alongside this paper on the consultation page.

Preliminary view

We consider the proposal to vary the Mount Gambier/South East TLAP to allow WIN Television to consolidate its transmitter arrangements is an economic and efficient use of spectrum. The proposal promotes the objects of the BSA, particularly:

- Paragraph 3(1)(a), as it would assist in the continued delivery of a diverse range of broadcasting services to the existing audience.
- Paragraph 3(1)(b), as it would facilitate the development of an efficient broadcasting industry.

Invitation to comment

Making a submission

We invite comments on the issues set out in this consultation paper.

- [Online submissions](#) can be made by uploading a document. Submissions in PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format are preferred.
- Submissions by post can be sent to:
The Manager
Broadcasting Carriage Policy Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616

The closing date for submissions is **COB, Friday 22 August 2025**.

Consultation enquiries can be emailed to bcp@acma.gov.au.

Publication of submissions

We publish submissions on our website, including personal information (such as names and contact details), except for information that you have claimed (and we have accepted) is confidential.

Confidential information will not be published or otherwise released unless required or authorised by law.

Privacy

View information about our policy on the publication of submissions, including collection of personal information during consultation and how we handle that information.

Information on the *Privacy Act 1988*, how to access or correct personal information, how to make a privacy complaint and how we will deal with any complaints, is available in our [privacy policy](#).