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Australian Communications and Media Authority

Radio and television broadcasting stations

Internet edition

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Explanatory notes

Under the *Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2005*, planning and management of the broadcasting services bands have been assigned to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). Transmitters delivering broadcasting services in these bands are licensed under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

This book has been prepared from the ACMA's records and contains information on licensed broadcasting transmitters as at the time of publication. Readers should note that while the entry of a broadcasting service in this edition indicates the existence of a transmitter licence for the service, it does not guarantee that the particular service is operating.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists, the ACMA cannot guarantee them to be free from errors. The ACMA welcomes advice regarding any misdescriptions that may appear in the current edition, or suggestions regarding the formatting (including additional fields) that may help develop this publication in future. Any correspondence should be sent to:

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The Broadcasting Services Bands

The parts of the radiofrequency spectrum designated as primarily for broadcasting purposes, and assigned by the Minister for planning under Part 3 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, are as follows:

526.5	-	1606.5	kHz	(inclusive)	137	-	144	MHz	(inclusive)
45	-	52	MHz	(inclusive)	174	-	230	MHz	(inclusive)
56	-	70	MHz	(inclusive)	520	-	694	MHz	(inclusive)
85	-	108	MHz	(inclusive)					

Television

All television services now shown in this book are digital.

Digital radio

Digital radio has been broadcasting in the licence areas of Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney since mid 2009. The ACMA is now facilitating the rollout of digital radio in regional areas where licensees make the commercial decision that they wish to offer the service.

AM radio day/night switching

Some AM stations have been licensed to operate an alternative day-time specification in order to improve their day-time coverage. These AM radio services will have two entries on consecutive lines, the first being for night-time operation and the second for day-time operation. In order to make them easily identifiable, day/night switching entries are shown with a shaded background.

Multiple entries

Some services have multiple entries with slightly different technical details. These entries may indicate the presence of standby or interim transmitter facilities.

What is not included in this book

Low Power Open Narrowcasting (LPON) services

LPON services are open narrowcasting services that operate at powers not exceeding 1 watt (residential areas) or 10 watts (rural areas). LPON services are authorised under the Broadcasting Services Act as class licensed services.
The ACMA has released, until 31 December 2013, the sub-band 87.5 MHz to 88.0 MHz for use by these services.

Temporary Community Broadcasting Licences (TCBLs)

TCBLs are used to provide aspirant community broadcasters the opportunity to broadcast before a permanent community service licence is allocated. TCBLs can be allocated for periods up to a maximum of 12 months. In areas where there are more aspirants than frequencies, shorter licence periods or timesharing can be specified.

Medium Frequency Narrowband Area Service (MF NAS) stations

MF NAS stations operate in the frequency band immediately above the AM radio broadcasting band, from 1606.5 to 1705 kHz, and may be received by some standard broadcasting receivers.

Test transmissions

A test transmission licence authorises the use of a specific frequency for the purpose of testing, for example, to evaluate coverage or to assess any interference problems that may arise from the proposed use of the frequency.

Special events

A special event transmitter licence is issued for up to 28 days to provide a service in connection with a distinct and organised event of sporting, cultural or community significance.

HF broadcast services

HF broadcast services use frequencies outside of the broadcasting services bands, in the range 2.3 MHz to 26.1 MHz, to transmit over long distances and wide areas within Australia and overseas.

Content of the lists

As an aid to locating specific entry/entries, MF AM radio, VHF FM radio and television services are listed in three sequences:

> callsign order

> frequency or channel order

> area served order (MF AM and VHF FM radio are combined).

Digital radio services are listed in a separate section.

Callsign and channel number (Chnl)

With the exception of open narrowcasting services and digital radio services, all broadcasting services bands services are allocated a callsign by the ACMA. The callsign of a television service do not include channel numbers: these numbers are appended to television callsigns for convenience only.

ABC and SBS radio callsign suffixes have the following meanings: **RN** (Radio National), **RR** (Regional Radio), **FM** (Classic FM), **JJJ** (Triple J), **SBS** (Special Broadcasting Service), and **PB** (Parliamentary Broadcasting/News Radio).

Although the ACMA will continue to apply the current stylistic number and letter conventions for callsigns to allow ease of identification, callsigns have no legal status.

Purpose

National

Broadcasting services carrying the programs of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Special Broadcasting Service, or the Parliamentary Broadcasting Network.

Commercial

Broadcasting services that provide programs that, when considered in the context of the service being provided, appear to be intended to appeal to the general public. These services are usually funded by advertising revenue and are operated for profit or as part of a profit making enterprise.

Community

Broadcasting services which are provided for community purposes, but are not operated for profit or as part of a profit making enterprise.

Retransmission

Services authorised, under section 34(1)(e) of the Broadcasting Services Act, to retransmit, unaltered, the services of national, community or commercial broadcasters.

High Power Open Narrowcasting (HPON)

Services whose reception is limited for some reason, by being targeted to special interest groups, or by being intended only for limited locations, or because they provide programs of limited appeal.

Category 1 Digital Radio Multiplex Transmitter (Category 1)

A category 1 digital radio multiplex transmitter licence is a licence that provides for the transmission of any or all of the following services:

A/ one or more digital commercial radio broadcasting services;

B/ one or more digital community radio broadcasting services;

C/ one or more restricted datacasting services.

Category 2 Digital Radio Multiplex Transmitter (Category 2)

A category 2 digital radio multiplex transmitter licence is a licence that provides for the transmission of any or all of the following services:

A/ one or more digital commercial radio broadcasting services;

B/ one or more digital community radio broadcasting services;

C/ one or more digital national radio broadcasting services;

D/ one or more restricted datacasting services.

Category 3 Digital Radio Multiplex Transmitter (Category 3)

A category 3 digital radio multiplex transmitter licence is a licence that provides for the transmission of:

A/ one or more digital national radio broadcasting services;

B/ one or more restricted datacasting services, where each relevant restricted datacasting licence is held by a national broadcaster.

Polarisation

For VHF FM radio and television, the polarisation may be **H** (Horizontal), **V** (Vertical), **M** (Mixed) or **D** (Dual). For MF AM radio and Digital radio, the polarisation is vertical.

Antenna pattern

Antenna radiation patterns may be **OD** (OmniDirectional) or **DA** (Directional Antenna).

Power/Effective Radiated Power (ERP)

Transmitter power (for MF AM radio) and ERP (for VHF FM radio, digital radio and television) are expressed in watts (suffix k indicates kilowatts). For directional antennas, ERP is in the direction of maximum radiation. In case of mixed polarisation, the maximum ERP specified applies to each plane of polarisation.

Co-ordinates of transmitter

Geographic co-ordinates of the transmitter location are specified in latitude (degrees, minutes, and seconds South) and longitude (degrees, minutes, and seconds East), to the nearest second, and referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94).