

FM broadcasting services band in the Perth RA1 license area

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) would like its HPON metropolitan license, TABradio 1206AM, to be considered in any option to move or create new FM radio services for the Perth RA1 license area.

The ACMA options paper indicating the possibility of extra FM frequencies being available has been read and the options available have been noted.

RWWA has provided submissions and reports in the past highlighting the poor reception issues we encounter with our HPON AM licence.

The background AM reception issues highlighted in the ACMA document have meant our broadcasting service has always been compromised and will continue whilst on the existing AM frequency.

The Perth region soil conductivity, geography, expansive population and impulse noise from rail and powerlines continue to degrade the performance of the radio station.

1. The electric railway system which spans the metropolitan area creates listening havoc when driving along our major freeway network.
2. Population growth since our licence was granted in 1995 is 50% (1.3m in 1995 compared to 2.1m in 2021). This population growth has created a major urban sprawl and our coverage has not been able to keep up with the population spread.
3. Many geographic black spots around the metropolitan area impact our service resulting in listener frustration and complaints.

Our transmitter site is located at river level in Ascot on a current Broadcast Australia MF site. We are co-tenants with 6IX and 6PR and hopefully can come under the same planning options regarding a move to an FM service. We need an option to improve our HPON service and to improve our broadcasting service to the public.

We currently deal with Broadcast Australia in relation to various sites and a move for TABradio is technically feasible if we were to be allowed to enter a formal process.

RWWA would like a move for TABradio to be seriously considered when assessing options available for current broadcasters on the AM service. It would be a great advantage for our station to be granted an FM licence as our current broadcasting service is below par and such a move would be a major step forward in looking after our client base.

Wes Cameron
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