Proposal to vary the Brisbane licence area plan

Consultation paper

february 2022

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# Executive summary

## Proposed changes to a licence area plan (LAP)

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is seeking comments on the proposed changes to the [Licence Area Plan – Brisbane Radio](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C00406) (Brisbane LAP).

We are proposing to vary the Brisbane LAP to vary the licence area boundary of the Caboolture RA1 licence area. The Brisbane LAP was [varied on 22 March 2021](https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2020-11/proposal-vary-brisbane-licence-area-plan-consultation-342020). However, that variation, while expanding the Caboolture RA1 licence area, did not include all the collection district (CD) codes required for that expansion. We want to amend the Brisbane LAP to include the correct CD codes.

A draft of the variation instrument to the Remote LAP that details the proposed changes is published alongside this consultation paper.

# Issue for comment

We welcome comments from interested stakeholders on the issues raised in this paper, or on any other issues relevant to this LAP variation.

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

# Introduction

## Planning of broadcasting services

The ACMA’s 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, and take into account planning criteria set out in section 23 of the BSA.

When planning analog broadcasting services, we refer to our [approach to broadcast planning and varying licence area plans](https://www.acma.gov.au/broadcast-planning-resources) document. This gives an overview of the regulatory framework, policy objectives and planning process for analog broadcasting services.

Under section 26 of the BSA, the ACMA must, by legislative instrument, prepare LAPs that determine the number and characteristics – including technical specifications – of broadcasting services that are to be available in particular areas of Australia. The BSA also provides us with discretionary power to vary LAPs.

In deciding whether to vary any LAP, we consider all submissions received.

## Overview of the Brisbane LAP

The Brisbane LAP currently specifies the licence areas of Brisbane RA1, Logan RA1, Redcliffe RA1, Wynnum RA1, Caboolture RA1 and Beaudesert RA1.

The following services are planned in the Brisbane RA1 licence area:

6 national radio broadcasting services

8 commercial radio broadcasting services

7 community broadcasting services

one open narrowcasting radio service.

There is one community radio broadcasting service planned in each of the Logan RA1, Redcliffe RA1, Wynnum RA1, Caboolture RA1 and Beaudesert RA1 licence areas.

# Proposal: community radio – Brisbane LAP (Caboolture)

## Summary

We propose to make a variation to the licence area boundary for the Caboolture RA1 licence area. The Brisbane LAP was [varied on 22 March 2021](https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2020-11/proposal-vary-brisbane-licence-area-plan-consultation-342020). However, that variation, while expanding the Caboolture RA1 licence area, did not include all the collection district (CD) codes required for that expansion. We want to amend the Brisbane LAP to include the correct CD codes.

The ACMA considers that this proposal is an economic and efficient use of spectrum that promotes the objects of the BSA, particularly those at paragraphs 3(1)(a) and (b). In putting this proposal forward, we have taken into account the planning criteria in section 23 of the BSA, especially:

the number of existing broadcasting services and the demand for new services (paragraph 23(c))

the technical restraints relating to the delivery or reception of broadcasting services in the licence area (paragraph 23(e)).

The proposed variation is set out in [Appendix A](#_Appendix_A) and in the draft variation instrument published alongside this consultation paper

## Background

### Caboolture RA1 licence area

The Caboolture RA1 licence area is located along the south-eastern coastline of Queensland, north of Brisbane (see [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B)). The area includes the urban community of Caboolture and several rural communities. We estimate the population of Caboolture RA1 to be 153,911, based on Australian Bureau of Statistics data.[[1]](#footnote-2)

The Caboolture RA1 licence area is adjacent to the Ipswich RA1 and Remote Commercial Radio Service North East Zone RA1 licence areas to the west. Both the Brisbane RA1 and the Nambour RA1 licence areas cover all of the Caboolture RA1 licence area.

### Community radio broadcasting service in the Caboolture RA1 licence area

The 4OUR community radio broadcasting service is planned in the Brisbane LAP to serve the Caboolture RA1 licence area operating from a transmitter at Mount Mee with:

a directional radiation pattern

mixed polarisation and maximum ERP of 3 kW

a maximum antenna height of 20 metres.

On 22 March 2021, the ACMA varied the Brisbane LAP so that the planned technical specifications matched the current operating specifications of the 4OUR community service. 4OUR stated that the changes in location and transmitter radiation pattern serve to avoid interference with local council radiocommunications equipment and provide improved service to community interest areas that were previously sheltered by natural landforms.

The March 2021 variation also included an expansion to the Caboolture RA1 licence area. However, the variation instrument did not include all of the CD codes of the expanded area and did not correspond with the map included in the initial proposal to vary the Brisbane LAP published on 11 November 2020.

The map included in the initial proposal correctly represented the intended expansion that was proposed and consulted on in March 2021. The CD codes that describe the proposed expanded Caboolture RA1 licence area are at [Appendix A](#_Appendix_A). A map of the proposed Caboolture RA1 licence area is at [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B).

## Proposal

The ACMA considers varying the Brisbane LAP to amend the CD codes for the Caboolture RA1 licence area to correctly reflect the intended expanded area to be in line with the efficient use of radiofrequency spectrum and to promote the objects of the BSA, especially paragraph 3(1)(a) and (b). This variation to amend the CD codes will not change the proposal to expand the Caboolture RA1 licence area consulted on in the proposal for variation of the Brisbane LAP in March 2021.

A revised Caboolture RA1 licence area is described at [Appendix A](#_Appendix_A) and a map is provided at [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B).

# Invitation to comment

## Making a submission

The ACMA invites comments on the issues set out in this consultation paper.

[Online submissions](https://www.acma.gov.au/have-your-say) 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,** **Thursday 3 March 2022**.

Consultation enquiries can be emailed to [BCP@acma.gov.au](mailto:BCP@acma.gov.au).

#### Publication of submissions

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# Appendix A

## Proposed Caboolture RA1 licence area

The licence area, in terms of areas defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics at the Census of 8 August 2006, is:

| Area Description |
| --- |
| Caboolture (S) (LGA) |
| Caloundra (C) – Caloundra S. (SLA) |
| QLD CD 120106 |
| QLD CD 120109 |
| QLD CD 120203 |
| QLD CD 120207 |
| QLD CD 120211 |
| QLD CD 120303 |
| QLD CD 120304 |
| QLD CD 120305 |
| QLD CD 120306 |
| QLD CD 120307 |
| QLD CD 120308 |
| QLD CD 120312 |
| QLD CD 120313 |
| QLD CD 120314 |
| QLD CD 120315 |
| QLD CD 120316 |
| QLD CD 120320 |
| QLD CD 120323 |
| QLD CD 120324 |
| QLD CD 122001 |
| QLD CD 122002 |
| QLD CD 122003 |
| QLD CD 122004 |
| QLD CD 122005 |
| QLD CD 122006 |
| QLD CD 122007 |
| QLD CD 122008 |
| QLD CD 122009 |
| QLD CD 122010 |
| QLD CD 122011 |
| QLD CD 122012 |
| QLD CD 122013 |
| QLD CD 122014 |
| QLD CD 122015 |
|  |

Note:

Standard terminology used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics:

(C) = City

(CD) = Collection District

(LGA) = Local Government Area

(S) = Shire

(SLA) = Statistical Local Area

# Appendix B

## Map of proposed Caboolture RA1 licence area



1. 2016 Census data. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)