**Gold Coast Christian & Community Broadcasting Association Ltd** **(4CRB): change to community of interest**

Consultation paper

August 2022

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# Issue for comment

We are seeking comments on the request from Gold Coast Christian & Community Broadcasting Association Ltd (4CRB) to change the community interest it represents from ‘senior citizens’ to ‘general geographic’.

# Request to change 4CRB’s community interest

## Purpose of consultation

To inform the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in making a decision regarding 4CRB’s request to change its community interest from ‘senior citizens’ to ‘general geographic’.

## Background

4CRB currently provides a community radio broadcasting service to the senior citizens in the Gold Coast RA1 licence area.

All community broadcasting licences are subject to the licence condition that the licensee will continue to represent the community interest that it represented at the time when the licence was allocated or was last renewed (paragraph 9(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (BSA)). The licence condition recognises that a community broadcasting service should be able to evolve with the community.

4CRB’s licence will expire on 3 October 2022. As part of 4CRB’s licence renewal application, it requested a change of community interest from representing ‘senior citizens’ to ‘general geographic’ in the Gold Coast RA1 licence area.

## Decision making

When deciding whether to approve a request for a change of community interest, the ACMA will consider the following matters set down at subsection 84(2) of the BSA:

the extent to which the proposed service or services would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community within the licence area of the proposed licence

the nature and diversity of the interests of that community

the extent to which the proposed service or services would provide material of local significance

the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services (including national broadcasting services) available within the licence area

the capacity of the applicant to provide the proposed service or services.

## 4CRB’s reasons for changing its community interest

In summary, 4CRB’s reasons for applying to change its community interests are:

4CRB’s community engagement has evolved over time and changing its community interest from ‘senior citizens’ to ‘general geographic’ will better represent the community it currently serves.

4CRB has seen an increase in its listenership in younger age brackets.

Over the past 5 years, 4CRB has worked on developing more interview and talkback segments that have been well received by a wider demographic than 4CRB’s traditional senior citizen listeners.

4CRB has associations with the Indigenous, ethnic, visually impaired and university communities. Some are currently on air with 4CRB and some are working with 4CRB with the view of digital radio being a medium that can provide more content for each of these communities.

## The Gold Coast RA1 licence area

The Gold Coast RA1 licence area is defined in the [Gold Coast Radio Licence Area Plan](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2013C00526).

Based on 2016 Census data, the Gold Coast RA1 licence area has a population of 594,141.

A map of the Gold Coast RA1 licence area is at Attachment A.

## Other stations licensed to operate in the Gold Coast RA1 licence area

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Licensee | Service category | Community interest |
| Juice Media Ltd (4CAB) | Community | Religious – Christian |
| Radio Metro Ltd (4MET) | Community | Youth |
| Gold Coast Community Radio Association Incorporated | Temporary community | Over 50s |
| Gold Coast FM Pty Ltd (4GLD) | Commercial | Mainstream rock |
| Hot Tomato Australia Pty Ltd (4HTB) | Commercial | Adult contemporary |
| Sea FM Gold Coast Pty Ltd (4SEA) | Commercial | Top 40 |

There is currently no community broadcaster serving the ‘general geographic’ community interest in Gold Coast RA1.

# Invitation to comment

## Making a submission

We invite comments on 4CRB’s request to change its community interest from ‘senior citizens’ to ‘general geographic’.

[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

Community Broadcasting and Safeguards Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box Q500

Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230

The closing date for submissions is COB **Monday, 29 August 2022**.

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

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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](https://www.acma.gov.au/privacy-policy).

# Attachment A: Map of the Gold Coast RA1 licence area

