

Licences A and B:  
What are the rules?

## Boundaries and definitions

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# Boundaries: Channel A content

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Licensee can provide the following services:

- datacasting
- open narrowcasting television
- community television broadcasting.

These services must be capable of being received by domestic digital television receivers (**DDTR**) (i.e. colloquially described as in-home services).

# Boundaries: Channel B content

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	DDTR	Non-DDTR
Datacasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
except datacasting services provided by commercial television or national broadcasting licensees		
Narrowcasting (open and subscription)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community broadcasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subscription television broadcasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BSA exempt re-transmission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial broadcasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Boundaries: Control of DTLs

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Able to control datacasting transmitter licence for:

**Channel A?**

**Channel B?**

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Commercial television  
& national broadcasting  
licensees

except if transmitted  
services capable of being  
received by domestic  
digital television receiver

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# Definitions: Domestic Digital TV Receiver

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- Domestic digital television receiver is defined as domestic reception equipment that:
  - is not a hand-held device (i.e. EM: primarily designed to be hand-held during use)
  - is capable of receiving content transmitted in SDTV or HDTV digital mode
  - has such other characteristics as ACMA may specify.
- Some issues for discussion:
  - “domestic” reception equipment
  - “hand-held” device
  - use of the definition of domestic digital TV receiver in licence conditions under Radcomms Act.

# Definitions: Datacasting

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	<b>Channel A</b>	<b>Channel B: In-home TV</b>	<b>Channel B: Hand-held device</b>
Datacasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

except datacasting services  
provided by commercial  
television or national  
broadcasting licensees

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## Schedule 6 of the BSA restrictions on datacasting content licence:

- information-only programs
- educational programs
- interactive computer games
- parliamentary broadcasts
- text or still visual images
- ordinary electronic mail
- internet content.

# Definitions: Narrowcasting

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	Channel A	Channel B:	Channel B:
Narrowcasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	except subscription narrowcasting	In-home TV	Hand-held device

Narrowcasting services are broadcasting services whose reception is limited in at least one of a number of ways specified in s18 of the BSA:

- by being targeted to special interest groups
- by being intended for limited locations (e.g. arenas or business premises)
- by being provided during a limited period or to cover a special event
- because they provide programs of limited appeal
- for some other reason.

# **ACMA narrowcasting guidelines**

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- Under the BSA, narrowcasting services are provided under class licences.
- ACMA has advised all prospective providers of narrowcasting television services on either of the new channels to apply ASAP for an opinion from ACMA under section 21 of the BSA on the category into which their service will fall. Such opinions remain valid for 5 years.
- ACMA to publish narrowcasting television guidelines by April 2007.

# Examples: Narrowcasting

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- Open narrowcasting: current services include:
  - an Indigenous programming service base in Broome
  - a tourist information service based in Darwin
  - trial community television services based in Adelaide and Mt Gambier and BSB.
  - a range of television services broadcast on frequencies outside the BSB.
- Subscription narrowcasting: services offered by existing subscription television providers have included:
  - a service dedicated to coverage of AFL matches
  - a service providing adult programming.

# Definitions: Community broadcasting

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	Channel A	Channel B: In-home TV	Channel B: Hand-held device
Community broadcasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Community broadcasting services are defined in section 15 of the BSA as broadcasting services that:

- are provided for community purposes
- are not operated for profit or as part of a profit-making enterprise
- provide programs that:
  - (i) are able to be received by commonly available equipment
  - (ii) are made available free to the general public.

# Definitions: Subscription broadcasting

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	Channel A	Channel B: In-home TV	Channel B: Hand-held device
Subscription television broadcasting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Subscription broadcasting services are defined in section 16 of the BSA as 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
- are available only on payment of subscription fees.

# Definitions: BSA exempt re-transmission

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	Channel A	Channel B: In-home TV	Channel B: Hand-held device
BSA exempt re-transmission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A BSA exempt re-transmission service is a service that, under section 212(1) of the BSA, is exempt from the regulatory regime under that Act because the service that does no more than:

- re-transmit programs that are transmitted by a commercial or community broadcasting licensee:
  - (i) within the licence area of that licence; or
  - (ii) outside the licence area of that licence in accordance with permission in writing given by the ACMA; or
- re-transmit programs transmitted by a national broadcasting service.

# Definitions: Commercial broadcasting

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	Channel A	Channel B: In-home TV	Channel B: Hand-held device
Commercial broadcasting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Commercial broadcasting services are defined in section 14 of the BSA as 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
- are able to be received by commonly available equipment, and are made available free to the general public
- are usually funded by advertising revenue
- are operated for profit or as part of a profit-making enterprise.

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