

Section 4: Ownership and control data

This data has been made available to purchasers of *A History of Regional Commercial Television in Australia* (Palgrave Macmillan 2022) as well as a service to other researchers with an interest in regional commercial television history. Please contact Michael Thurlow at michael@channel35.au if you have any questions, queries, or comments.

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Definition:

An ownership group is defined as an entity which controls one or more commercial television licences either directly or through a wholly owned subsidiary.

Data sources:

The data in this section was derived from the following sources:

- ABCB annual reports, 1961-76
- ABCB licence renewal reports, 1960-76
- Regional television company annual reports, 1960-2019
- ABT annual reports, 1976-1992
- ABA annual reports, 1992-2003
- ACMA annual reports, 2003-2019

Appendix 4.1. Ownership groups, 1966

The following table lists ownership groups at 30 June 1966.¹

Ownership groups	Licences
Victorian Broadcasting Network Ltd ²	GLV
Bendigo and Central Victoria Telecasters Ltd	BCV
Goulburn-Murray Television Ltd	GMV
Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation Ltd	NBN
Country Television Services Ltd	CBN
Television Wollongong Transmissions Ltd	WIN
Ballarat and Western Victoria Television Ltd	BTV
Richmond-Tweed TV Ltd	RTN
Northern Television Ltd	TNT
Canberra Television Ltd	CTC
Darling Downs TV Ltd	DDQ
Telecasters North Queensland Ltd	TNQ
Rockhampton Television Ltd	RTQ

Appendix 4.2. Ownership groups, 1971

The following table lists ownership groups, 30 June 1971.³

Ownership groups	Licences
Victorian Broadcasting Network - Victorian Broadcasting Network Ltd - Bendigo & Central Victoria Telecasters Ltd	GLV BCV
Associated Broadcasting Services - Goulburn-Murray Television Ltd	GMV
Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corp. Ltd	NBN
Country Television Services Ltd	CBN, CWN
Television Wollongong Transmissions Ltd	WIN
Ballarat and Western Victoria Television Ltd	BTV
Canberra Television Ltd	CTC
Darling Downs TV Ltd	DDQ, SDQ
Telecasters North Queensland Ltd - Far Northern Television Ltd	TNQ FNQ
Rockhampton Television Ltd	RTQ
Examiner-Northern TV - Northern Television (TNT9) P/L	TNT
Riverina Television Ltd	RVN
Albury-Upper Murray TV Ltd	AMV
Northern Rivers Television Ltd - Richmond-Tweed TV Ltd	NRN RTN
Television New England Ltd	NEN
Wide Bay-Burnett Television Ltd	WBQ
Sunraysia Television Ltd	STV
Murrumbidgee Television Ltd	MTN
South East Telecasters Ltd	SES
East Coast Television Ltd (receivers appointed)	ECN
South Western Telecasters Ltd	BTW, GSW
Mackay Television Ltd	MVQ
Broken Hill Television Ltd	BKN
Spencer Gulf Telecasters Ltd	GTS

Appendix 4.3. Ownership groups, 1976

The following table lists ownership groups, 30 June 1976.⁴

Ownership groups	Licences
Victorian Broadcasting Network Ltd	BCV, GLV
Associated Broadcasting Services - Goulburn-Murray Television Ltd ⁵	GMV
Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corp. Ltd	NBN
Country Television Services Ltd	CBN, CWN
Television Wollongong Transmissions Ltd	WIN
Ballarat and Western Victoria Television Ltd	BTV
Canberra Television Ltd	CTC
Darling Downs TV Ltd	DDQ, SDQ
Telecasters North Queensland Ltd - Far Northern Television Ltd	TNQ FNQ
Rockhampton Television Ltd	RTQ
Examiner-Northern TV - Northern Television (TNT9) P/L ⁶	TNT
Riverina & North East Victoria Television Ltd	RVN, AMV
Northern Rivers Television Ltd - Richmond-Tweed TV Ltd	NRN RTN
Television New England Ltd	NEN, ECN
Wide Bay-Burnett Television Ltd	SEQ
Sunraysia Television Ltd	STV
Murrumbidgee Television Ltd	MTN
South East Telecasters Ltd	SES
South Western Telecasters Ltd	BTW, GSW
Mackay Television Ltd	MVQ
Spencer Gulf Telecasters Ltd - Broken Hill Television Ltd	GTS BKN
Mount Isa Television P/L	ITQ
Mid-Western Television P/L	VEW
Territory Television P/L	NTD

Appendix 4.4. Ownership groups, 1981

The following table lists ownership groups, 30 June 1981.

Ownership groups	Licences
Victorian Broadcasting Network Ltd	BCV, GLV
Associated Broadcasting Services - Ballarat & Western Victoria Television Ltd - Goulburn-Murray Television Ltd	BTV GMV
NBN Ltd ⁷	NBN
Country Television Services Ltd	CBN, CWN
Television Wollongong Transmissions Ltd (Bruce Gordon)	WIN
Canberra Television Ltd (Kerry Stokes)	CTC
Darling Downs TV Ltd	DDQ, SDQ
Telecasters North Queensland Ltd - Far Northern Television Ltd	TNQ FNQ
Rockhampton Television Ltd	RTQ
Examiner-Northern TV - Northern Television (TNT9) P/L	TNT
Riverina & North East Victoria Television Ltd	RVN, AMV
Northern Star - Northern Rivers Television Ltd - Richmond-Tweed TV Ltd	NRN RTN
Television New England Ltd (Higginbotham family)	NEN, ECN
Wide Bay-Burnett Television Ltd	SEQ
Sunraysia Television Ltd (Lanyon family)	STV
Murrumbidgee Television Ltd	MTN
South East Telecasters Ltd	SES
South Western Telecasters Ltd (Bendat family) ⁸	BTW, GSW
Mackay Television Ltd	MVQ
Spencer Gulf Telecasters Ltd (Sturrock family) - Broken Hill Television Ltd	GTS BKN
Mount Isa Television P/L (Joel family)	ITQ
Mid-Western Television P/L (Lilburn family)	VEW
Territory Television P/L	NTD
Geraldton Telecasters P/L	GTW
Riverland Television P/L	RTS

Appendix 4.5. Ownership groups, 1986

The following table lists ownership groups, 30 June 1986.

Ownership groups	Licences
Southern Cross Communications Ltd (Techcom/Tricom) - Victorian Broadcasting Network (1983) P/L	BCV, GLV
Tricom Investments P/L - Northern Television (TNT9) P/L	TNT
Associated Broadcasting Services - Ballarat & Western Victoria Television Ltd - Goulburn-Murray Television Ltd	BTV GMV
NBN Ltd	NBN
Country Television Services Ltd	CBN, CWN
TWT Ltd ⁹	WIN
Australian Capital Television P/L ¹⁰	CTC
Darling Downs TV Ltd	DDQ, SDQ
Telecasters North Queensland Ltd - Far Northern Television Ltd	TNQ FNQ
Rockhampton Television Ltd	RTQ
Riverina & North East Victoria Television Ltd	RVN, AMV
Northern Star Group - Northern Rivers Television Ltd - Richmond-Tweed TV Ltd	NRN RTN
Television New England Ltd	NEN, ECN
Wide Bay-Burnett Television Ltd	SEQ
Sunraysia Television Ltd	STV
Broadcast Operations Ltd	MTN
South East Telecasters Ltd / Riverland Television Ltd	SES / RTS
Golden West Network Ltd - Mid-Western Television P/L	BTW, GSW VEW ¹¹
Mackay Television Ltd	MVQ
Spencer Gulf Telecasters Ltd / Broken Hill Television Ltd	GTS / BKN
Mount Isa Television P/L	ITQ
Territory Television P/L	NTD
Geraldton Telecasters P/L	GTW

Appendix 4.6. Ownership groups, 1992

The following table lists ownership groups, 30 June 1992.¹²

Ownership groups	Licences
Southern Cross Broadcasting (Australia) Ltd	BCV, GLV, TNT
ENT Ltd	VTV, STV, TVT
NBN Ltd	NBN
Prime Television Ltd (Prime) (Paul Ramsay) ¹³	CBN, NEN, AMV
TWT P/L (WIN) (Bruce Gordon) ¹⁴	WIN, RTQ
Australian Capital Television P/L (Charles Curran)	CTC
Darling Downs TV Ltd	NRN
Telecasters North Queensland Ltd	TNQ, QQQ, ITQ
Sunshine Broadcasting Network Ltd	SEQ, MVQ ¹⁵
Lochfield Consultants P/L	MTN
South East Telecasters Ltd	SES, RTS ¹⁶
Golden West Network Ltd (GWN) (Kerry Stokes)	SSW, VEW, GTW, WAW
Spencer Gulf Telecasters Ltd	GTS, BKN
Territory Television P/L (Kerry Packer)	NTD
Imparja Television P/L	IMP

Appendix 4.7. Ownership groups, 1999

The following table lists ownership groups, 31 December 1999.

Ownership groups	Licences
Prime Television (Paul Ramsay) Prime Television (Northern) P/L Prime Television (Southern) P/L Prime Television (Victoria) P/L Golden West Network P/L Mid-Western Television P/L Geraldton Telecasters P/L Golden West Satellite Communications P/L	NEN CBN AMV, PTV SSW VEW GTW WAW
WIN Television (Bruce Gordon) WIN Television NSW P/L WIN Television QLD P/L WIN Television Griffith P/L WIN Television Vic P/L WIN Television Mildura P/L WIN Television Tas P/L WIN Television SA P/L WIN Television WA P/L	WIN RTQ MTN, AMN VTV STV TVT RTS, SES WOW
Telecasters Australia Northern Rivers Television Ltd Regional Television P/L Telecasters Australia Ltd	NRN TNQ, ITQ, QQQ TND
Southern Cross Broadcasting Australian Capital Television P/L Southern Cross Communications P/L Southern Cross Television (TNT9) P/L	CTC BCV, GLV TNT
Spencer Gulf Telecasters (Sturrock family) Spencer Gulf Telecasters Ltd Broken Hill Television Ltd	GTS BKN
NBN Enterprises NBN Ltd	NBN
Publishing and Broadcasting (Kerry Packer) Territory Television P/L	NTD
Seven Network (Kerry Stokes) Channel Seven Queensland P/L	STQ
Imparja Imparja Television P/L	IMP

Appendix 4.8. Ownership groups, 2009

The following table lists ownership groups, 31 December 2009.

Ownership groups	Licences
Prime Media Group (Paul Ramsay) Prime Television (Northern) P/L Prime Television (Southern) P/L Prime Television (Victoria) P/L Golden West Network P/L Mid-Western Television P/L Geraldton Telecasters P/L Golden West Satellite Communications P/L + Joint venture	NEN CBN AMV, PTV SSW VEW GTW WAW MDV
WIN Television (Bruce Gordon) WIN Television NSW P/L WIN Television QLD P/L WIN Television Griffith P/L WIN Television Vic P/L WIN Television Mildura P/L WIN Television Tas P/L WIN Television SA P/L WIN Television WA P/L + Joint ventures	WIN RTQ MTN, AMN VTV STV TVT RTS, LRS, SES, MGS WOW TDT, MDV
Southern Cross Media Australian Capital Television P/L Northern Rivers Television P/L Regional Television P/L Southern Cross Communications P/L Southern Cross Television (TNT9) P/L Broken Hill Television P/L Spencer Gulf Telecasters P/L + Joint ventures	CTC NRN TNQ, ITQ, QQQ, TND BCV, GLV TNT BKN, SCN GTS, SGS TDT, DTD
PBL Media NBN Ltd Territory Television P/L + Joint venture	NBN NTD DTD
Seven Network (Kerry Stokes) Channel Seven Queensland P/L	STQ
Imparja Imparja Television P/L	IMP

Appendix 4.9. Ownership groups, 2019

The following table lists ownership groups, 31 October 2019.

Ownership group / Licensee	Licences
Prime Media Group Prime Television (Northern) P/L Prime Television (Southern) P/L Prime Television (Victoria) P/L Golden West Network P/L Mid-Western Television P/L Geraldton Telecasters P/L Golden West Satellite Communications P/L + Joint ventures (see Appendix 4.11)	NEN CBN AMV, PTV SSW VEW GTW WAW
WIN Television (Bruce Gordon) WIN Television NSW P/L WIN Television QLD P/L Network Investments P/L ¹⁷ WIN Television Griffith P/L WIN Television Vic P/L WIN Television Mildura P/L WIN Television Tas P/L WIN Television SA P/L WIN Television WA P/L + Joint ventures (see Appendix 4.11)	WIN RTQ NRN MTN, AMN, MDN VTV STV TVT SES, MGS, SDS, RTS, LRS, RDS WOW
Southern Cross Austereo Australian Capital Television P/L Regional Television P/L Southern Cross Communications P/L Southern Cross Television (TNT9) P/L Broken Hill Television P/L Spencer Gulf Telecasters P/L + Joint ventures (see Appendix 4.11)	CTC TNQ, ITQ, QQQ, TND GLV, BCV TNT BKN, SCN, BDN GTS, SGS, GDS
Nine Entertainment Co. NBN Ltd Territory Television P/L + Joint venture (see Appendix 4.11)	NBN NTD
Seven Network (Kerry Stokes) Channel Seven Queensland P/L	STQ
Imparja Imparja Television P/L + Joint ventures (see Appendix 4.11)	IMP

Appendix 4.10. Joint ventures, 2019

The following table lists joint ventures, 31 October 2019.¹⁸

Licensee	Licence [Licence no.]
Prime / WIN joint ventures	
Mildura Digital Television P/L	MDV [1150827]
West Digital Television P/L	SDW [1130049]
West Digital Television No. 2 P/L	GDW [1130046]
West Digital Television No. 3 P/L	VDW [1130048]
West Digital Television No. 4 P/L	WDW [1130047]
WA Satco P/L	SVW [1130166]
WIN / Southern Cross joint venture	
Tasmanian Digital Television P/L	TDT [1150806]
Southern Cross / Imparja joint ventures	
Central Digital Television P/L	IDQ [1130051] CDT [1130050]
Eastern Australia Satellite Broadcasters P/L	VAN [1130136] VAS [1130135]
Nine / Southern Cross joint venture	
Darwin Digital Television P/L	DTD [1130013]

Ownership update, 30 June 2022

Seven West Media's December 2021 acquisition of Prime Media Groups television businesses resulted in a major change to ownership.

Ownership group / Licensee	Licences
Seven Network (Kerry Stokes) Channel Seven Queensland P/L Prime Television (Northern) P/L Prime Television (Southern) P/L Prime Television (Victoria) P/L Golden West Network P/L Mid-Western Television P/L Geraldton Telecasters P/L Golden West Satellite Communications P/L + Joint ventures (see Joint venture update, 2022)	STQ NEN CBN AMV, PTV SSW VEW GTW WAW
WIN Television (Bruce Gordon) WIN Television NSW P/L WIN Television QLD P/L Network Investments P/L ¹⁹ WIN Television Griffith P/L WIN Television Vic P/L WIN Television Mildura P/L WIN Television Tas P/L WIN Television SA P/L WIN Television WA P/L + Joint ventures (see Joint venture update, 2022)	WIN RTQ NRN MTN, AMN, MDN VTV STV TVT SES, MGS, SDS, RTS, LRS, RDS WOW
Southern Cross Austereo Australian Capital Television P/L Regional Television P/L Southern Cross Communications P/L Southern Cross Television (TNT9) P/L Broken Hill Television P/L Spencer Gulf Telecasters P/L + Joint ventures (see Joint venture update, 2022)	CTC TNQ, ITQ, QQQ, TND GLV, BCV TNT BKN, SCN, BDN GTS, SGS, GDS
Nine Entertainment Co. NBN Ltd Territory Television P/L + Joint ventures (see Joint venture update, 2022)	NBN NTD
Imparja Imparja Television P/L + Joint ventures (see Joint venture update, 2022)	IMP

Joint venture update, 30 June 2022

The following table lists joint ventures, 30 June 2022.

Licensee	Licence [Licence no.]
Seven / WIN joint ventures	
Mildura Digital Television P/L	MDV [1150827]
West Digital Television P/L	SDW [1130049]
West Digital Television No. 2 P/L	GDW [1130046]
West Digital Television No. 3 P/L	VDW [1130048]
West Digital Television No. 4 P/L	WDW [1130047]
WA Satco P/L	SVW [1130166]
WIN / Southern Cross joint venture	
Tasmanian Digital Television P/L	TDT [1150806]
Southern Cross / Imparja joint ventures	
Central Digital Television P/L	IDQ [1130051] CDT [1130050]
Eastern Australia Satellite Broadcasters P/L	VAN [1130136] VAS [1130135]
Nine / Southern Cross joint venture	
Darwin Digital Television P/L	DTD [1130013]

Notes

¹ ABCB, *Annual Report*, 1966, pp. 78-83.

² The GLV licence was transferred from Gippsland-Latrobe Valley Telecasters Ltd to Victorian Broadcasting Network Ltd from 22 March 1965.

³ ABCB, *Twenty-Third Annual Report*, 1971, pp. 167-174.

⁴ ABCB, *Twenty-Eighth Annual Report*, 1976, pp. 165-172.

⁵ GMV was ultimately controlled by Associated Broadcasting Services Ltd.

⁶ TNT was ultimately controlled by Examiner-Northern TV Ltd.

⁷ Name changed from Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corp. Ltd from 5 November 1979.

⁸ Name changed to Golden West Network Ltd from 13 August 1981.

⁹ Name changed from Television Wollongong Transmissions Ltd from 25 May 1984.

¹⁰ Name changed from Canberra Television Ltd from 3 July 1981.

¹¹ The VEW licence was held by Mid-Western Television P/L which was controlled by 135 Nominees P/L which, in turn, delegated management of the station to GWN.

¹² Source: Regional television company annual reports.

¹³ Ramcorp Ltd renamed Prime Television Ltd from 23 July 1991.

¹⁴ TWT Ltd converted to a private company, TWT P/L from 8 May 1992.

¹⁵ SEQ and MVQ licences consolidated as STQ in September 1992.

¹⁶ SEL, through its Murray River Telecasters Pty Ltd subsidiary, held a controlling interest in RVL (RTS).

¹⁷ Network Investments P/L was registered on 27 March 2017 to acquire SCA's NRN Northern NSW television assets.

¹⁸ ACMA, Register of Controlled Media Groups, Media Control Database, <https://www.acma.gov.au/register-control-media-groups>, accessed online 24 December 2019.

¹⁹ Network Investments P/L was registered on 27 March 2017 to acquire SCA's NRN Northern NSW television assets.