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# Denver Inc.: Aussie fund banks on song rights



July 7, 2007

*Country roads, take me home*

To the place I belong  
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*Australia, outback mama*

*Take me home, country roads*

... Sorry.

But it seems that the rights to John Denver's classic song have been bought by First State Investments, the fund unit of Commonwealth Bank of, that's right, Australia. The unit plans to start a fund that will invest in song rights, and the late songwriter's hit was named specifically. A music expert has been hired to help manage the fund.

The company has already opened operations in Nashville, Tenn., where it will promote the songs to be used in commercials and telephone ring tones, according to a *Bloomberg News* report.

## Newspaper expansion

Word is that Phil Anschutz is moving forward with a plan to import his *Examiner* chain of local giveaway newspapers to Los Angeles by the end of the year, according to *Media Life*, a Web site for media buyers. The site cited "a newspaper industry source familiar with the growth plans of parent Clarity Media Group."

Anschutz's Clarity has trademarked the *Examiner* name in 69 markets, including Denver. The company has papers in Baltimore and San Francisco.

"We do have expansion plans, but I am not prepared to comment now on any specific market launches," Mark Wurzer, chief marketing officer for Clarity Media Group, tells *Media Life*. "All I can say is that we have growth plans, but I can't give you a time frame."

## Colorado's virtual value

Ever wonder how much Colorado is worth, at least in the virtual world? We have the answer. The state recently sold in the virtual world of Weblo.com for \$6,579 - and that's real dollars. The buyer gets the virtual rights to the state and becomes the virtual governor of the state.

How about Denver? The city, originally bought for \$28, was resold for \$250.

Weblo is a virtual world based on the real world, where members earn real money by owning online replicas of real cities, states, famous properties and Internet domain names.

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New York state sold for \$19,354. Florida sold for \$18,047.

*Assistant Business Editor Jane Hoback and Deputy Business Editor Gil Rudawsky write about local business talk that doesn't necessarily end up in quarterly reports. They can be reached at [business@RockyMountainNews.com](mailto:business@RockyMountainNews.com).*

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#### **About Jane Hoback & Gil Rudawsky**

Jane Hoback and Gil Rudawsky are assistant business editors. They write about local business talk that doesn't necessarily end up in quarterly reports. They can be reached at [business@rockymountainnews.com](mailto:business@rockymountainnews.com)

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