

25 June 2015

Mr Jason McNamara
Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

ACMA 2013/152

Dear Mr McNamara

Regulation Impact Statement – final assessment second pass

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) for *Release of the 1800 MHz band in remote areas*. The regulatory burden to business, community organisations and/or individuals has been quantified and offsets have been identified and quantified using the Regulatory Burden Measurement framework. These have been agreed with your office.

The ACMA appreciates the time and efforts of the Office of Best Practice and Regulation (OBPR) staff in assisting in this RIS process.

I am confident that the revised RIS addresses the concerns raised in your letter of 5 September 2014. The earlier draft of the RIS may have caused some confusion, particularly with its inclusion of technical terminology. The attached RIS has been revised to clarify areas that may be been potentially confusing.

In the 5 September letter, you advised that OBPR's assessment was that the RIS was too focused upon technical aspects and would therefore not be readable for the general public. The ACMA recognises that any RIS is required to be accessible to a general audience to help promote transparency in the government decision making process. With this in mind, the ACMA has undertaken a further review of the draft RIS to improve its accessibility.

To achieve a more accessible and readable document, we have added an executive summary and a glossary of technical or industry terminology. In addition, we have restructured the RIS to more clearly signpost the ACMA's approach to considering key issues and developing arrangements for the 1800 MHz band in remote areas of Australia.

This approach is intended to assist the reader to gain an understanding of the broad problem before considering the more detailed options for solutions that are discussed within the RIS.

While the ACMA has undertaken measures to ensure the document is accessible for the general public, some of the issues raised within the RIS are technical in nature. It is vital that relevant information, technical or otherwise, is presented to explain the reasons the ACMA will implement the proposed arrangements. Key stakeholders with an interest in 1800 MHz band issues are anticipated to be the main readers of the RIS and they will expect this information to be presented. The ACMA therefore remains of the view that it is appropriate to

include this information. However, we expect that the addition of the glossary and the restructuring of the RIS will assist the lay reader in understanding these more technical elements of the document.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS now meets best practice consistent with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation*.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely,



Giles Tanner
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Communications Infrastructure Division
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Attachment: *Regulation impact Statement – Release of the 1800 MHz band in remote areas*