

## NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Draft minutes of Meeting 1 of 2005

Monday 21 March 2005  
ACCC, Level 36, 360 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

#### Attendees: Melbourne

Grant Symons	ACA	Chair
Robert Johnston	ACA	
Susan Horne	ACA	Secretariat
Gerry O'Reilly	ACA	
Michael Elsegood	Optus	
Grant Young	ACCC	
Guy Di Paola	Telstra	
Michael Ryan	Telstra	

#### Attendees: Sydney

Paul Teng	PowerTel
Barry Chan	PowerTel
Geoff Brann	PowerTel
David Havyatt	AAPT
Sam Mangar	Optus
John Pack	ATUG
Van Le	Vodafone

#### Teleconference

Joe Gorup	Engin
Mary Jane Salier	WorldCom

#### Apologies

Emily Cripps	DCITA
Bob McCosker	DCITA
Alexander Osborne	Hutchison
Philippa Mansor	CTN

#### 1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members and tabled the apologies for the meeting.

## **2. BUSINESS ARISING**

### **2.1 Minutes of previous meeting**

ACA staff tabled the minutes of the previous meeting NAC 4 of 2004. The minutes were accepted without discussion.

### **2.2 Status of actions outstanding since NAC Meeting 4 of 2004**

ACA staff tabled the paper that outlined the status of the actions and recommendations arising from NAC meeting 4 of 2004. The following action items (in italics) arising from the last meeting were discussed:

#### *3.2 Proposed minor amendments to the Numbering Plan*

*Action 4/4/04 ACA to report to the next NAC meeting regarding whether a CSP would be in contravention of the Numbering Plan where a handset translated a non-Australian emergency service number into 000.*

ACA staff reported that the inclusion on newer SIM cards of non-Australian emergency service numbers has resulted in end-users being able to make calls to emergency service numbers other than 000 and 112. It is believed that this could occur because SIM cards translate emergency service numbers other than 000 and 112 to an emergency signal, rather than this occurring in the network. Optus staff indicated that the Optus network only recognises calls to 000 and 112 as valid. However, other networks may manage this issue differently.

ACA staff indicated that this issue has been discussed in the ACA's ESAC, and referred to the NAC for consideration of a note in the Plan.

**Action 1/1/05 NAC members to provide comment on extent to which Australian networks deliver emergency service calls made using numbers other than the Australian emergency service numbers 000 and 112.**

#### *3.3 Proposal to amend the Numbering Plan—Carriage Service Provider Obligations (or ROU)*

*Action 7/4/04 NAC members to provide comment to the ACA on the proposed variation. ACA staff to circulate any comment received.*

ACA staff reported that the next step in the process was to consider the comment received. After that, ACA staff intended to approach the Authority to obtain approval to prepare an amendment to the Numbering Plan. NAC members asked that a copy of the proposal to amend the Numbering Plan be provided to members.

**Action 2/1/05 ACA staff to provide a copy of the proposal to amend the Numbering Plan be provided to NAC members.**

### 5.3 *Numbers for trialling new services*

*Action 9/4/04 NAC members to provide alternative numbering approaches associated with trialling new telecommunications services.*

ACA staff reported that this item has been deferred for the short term as a result of higher priority issues such as annual numbering charge. As a result, this item will be placed on the agenda for the next NAC meeting.

**Action 3/1/05 ACA staff to place the issue of numbers for trialling new services on the agenda for the next NAC meeting.**

#### **3.1 Report on status of variations to the Numbering Plan**

ACA staff reported on the status of three variations to the Numbering Plan currently underway. None of the variations are not complex. The variation associated with the creation of additional geographic numbers will shortly be approved by the Authority.

#### **4.1 Update on data network access service portability**

ACCC staff provided a verbal update on the status of data network access service portability. ACCC staff indicated there was little interest or support from Internet service providers as a result of the release of a public discussion paper, with this issue placed on hold for the short term. ACCC staff further indicated that the ACCC was likely to release a final position report during May, indicating that the ACCC would not be declaring portability for data network access service numbers. ACA staff asked that an update on the matter be provided to the next NAC meeting.

**Action 4/1/05 ACCC staff to provide an update to the next NAC meeting on the status of data network access service portability.**

#### **5.1 Numbering arrangements for VoIP services**

ACA staff tabled a paper seeking NAC member views on numbering arrangements for VoIP services. Hutchison provided written comments on the issues raised in the paper as the Hutchison representative was unable to attend the meeting.

ACA staff advised that the paper did not discuss the use of geographic numbers by VoIP services, although the ACA is considering the use of both geographic numbers and a new number range for VoIP services. Rather, ACA staff sought to discuss the arrangements for a new range at an earlier date so as to minimise any time delay that might be incurred if a decision is made to specify a new range.

NAC members discussed a number of issues including:

- whether the discussions regarding a new number range were premature given the Department of Communications, Industry Technology and the Arts' development of a position paper;
- what obligations might be applied to VoIP providers using a new number range;
- the need for commercial (interconnect) discussions before a new number range could be used; and

- the need for a new number range when existing numbers could be used.

**Action 5/1/05      NAC members to provide written comment on the issues raised in the NAC paper by Monday 4 April 2005.**

## **5.2      Update on the progress of Australian ENUM trial**

ACA staff provided a verbal update that it had been planned to present on the status of work occurring in the ENUM Working Group to the current meeting of the NAC. However, this was not possible as the ENUM working group needs to first report to the Australian ENUM Discussion Group. As a result, an update will be provided to the next meeting of the NAC.

ACA staff also indicated that a formal announcement may be made shortly regarding the date of commencement of the ENUM trial.

**Action 6/1/05      The ENUM Working Group to provide an update on its progress to the next meeting of the NAC.**

## **5.3      Update on the ACA's new numbering database**

ACA staff provided an update on the timing for completion of the new numbering database.

ACA staff advised that testing was being undertaken of the latest software release from the system developer to resolve the remaining outstanding issues associated with data migrated from the existing numbering database. ACA staff also advised that training of CSPs on how to manage numbers via the new numbering database was to be conducted in Melbourne starting 22 March 2005, with further training available as required.

## **5.4      Update on smartnumbers auction**

ACA staff provided an update on the implementation of the ACA's smartnumbers auction system. The update focussed on two main points associated with the smartnumbers auction system:

- the quantity of numbers auctioned, and
- the introduction of new arrangements for allocating smartnumbers through the commencement of new determinations for numbers auctioned via the general and charities auction process.

## **5.5      Allocation of geographic numbers to users with small needs**

AAPT tabled a paper identifying an alternative method of managing geographic numbers for CSPs with a limited need for numbers. AAPT proposed allocating a block of 1,000 numbers to a 'notional' CSP, with any CSP interested in a small quantity of numbers in a particular SZU able to individually port numbers out of the block associated with that SZU.

NAC members raised several issues including:

- which CSP would be prepared to act as the ‘notional’ CSP, including existing holders of geographic numbers;
- CSPs providing local services need to identify the impact, if any, of the alternative method of managing geographic numbers for CSPs with a limited need for numbers; and
- whether any long distance providers would be interested in obtaining numbers through the alternative method of managing geographic numbers for CSPs with a limited need for numbers.

**Action 7/1/05      ACA staff to organise a meeting with interested parties to explore the alternative method of managing geographic numbers.**

## **5.6      Geographic sectors in major capital cities**

PowerTel and Optus tabled papers associated with the use of geographic numbers:

- PowerTel discussed the removal from the Plan of the geographic sectors in the five major capital cities to allow numbers to port across sector boundaries; and
- Optus discussed what limits should be placed on the use of geographic numbers as a result of the impact on a CSP’s ability to provide untimed local calls where a number is ported outside a SZU boundary.

These papers were submitted to the NAC as a result of work being undertaken in the ACIF Local Number Portability Working Committee to remove provisions limiting portability to the donor CSP’s exchange service area. Hutchison provided written comments on the issues raised in the papers as the Hutchison representative was unable to attend the meeting.

NAC members discussed that the Plan currently limits the use of numbers of local geographic significance, including porting, to within sector boundaries. However, there are no charging limitations with respect to porting across sector boundaries within a SZU, as numbers of broad geographic significance can port across sector boundaries.

NAC members also considered whether the existing approach to geographic numbers set out in the Plan:

- provides a level of flexibility which may affect a CSP’s ability to provide untimed local calls as a number might be used outside the SZU to which it is allocated; and
- may limit the ability of an end-user to understand the location of a number and the charge for a call to that number where a number is used outside the SZU to which it is allocated.

**Action 8/1/05      NAC members to provide comment by late May 2005 on how geographic numbers could be managed, including where that guidance should be contained eg the Plan or a fact sheet.**

**Action 9/1/05      ACA staff to provide a paper to the next NAC meeting summarising NAC member comment and providing options.**

## **5.7 Annual numbering charges – 2005**

ACA staff provided a briefing to NAC members on process and timing issues associated with the collection of annual numbering charges during 2005.

Optus indicated that the table in the paper provided valuable information about the charge likely to be applied to numbers, and suggested it would be useful if this information could be provided each year. ACA staff indicated that the new numbering database will provide this information each year.

## **6.1 Quarterly report of allocations, surrenders and permanent transfers of numbers**

ACA staff tabled the quarterly report of number transactions (allocations, surrenders, variations to existing allocations, permanent transfers and withdrawals of numbers) between 22 November 2004 and 9 March 2005.

## **7. NEW ISSUES FOR NEXT MEETING**

No new issues for the next meeting were raised.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Consumer Fact Sheet for Directory Assistance and Associated Services**

ACA staff advised that updates to the consumer fact sheet for Directory Assistance and Associated Services were completed and the fact sheet would be provided shortly.

**Action 10/1/05 ACA staff to circulate copies of the fact sheet to NAC members.**

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in Sydney on Wednesday 6 July. Optus advised that it would check to see whether it could host the meeting, and the ACA would confirm the venue.

The meeting will commence at 10am and videoconferencing and teleconferencing facilities will be made available.