

NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft minutes of Meeting 2 of 2005

Wednesday, 27 July 2005
ACMA Regional Office, Level 2 –55 Clarence Street, Sydney

Attendees: Sydney

1.	Grant Symons	ACMA
2.	Robert Johnston	ACMA
3.	Suzanne Cumming	ACMA
4.	Mary-Jane Salier	MCI - Worldcom
5.	Van Le	Vodafone
6.	Alexander Osborne	Hutchison
7.	Sam Mangar	Optus
8.	Geoff Brann	Powertel

Attendees: Melbourne

1.	Susan Horne	ACMA
2.	Joan Wilkinson	ACMA
3.	Grant Young	ACCC
4.	Guy Di Paola	Telstra
5.	Ian Somerville	Telstra
6.	Daniel Prior (?)	Telstra
7.	Uyen Nguyen	Telstra
8.	Martin Vella	Primus

Teleconference

1	Michael Elsegood	Optus
2	Lucy Battersby	DCITA

Apologies

1.	Emily Cripps	DCITA
2.	David Havyatt	AAPT
3.	Sarah Wilson	CTN
4.	Megan McEwin	INMS Ltd

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members and tabled the apologies for the meeting. The Chair acknowledged that the meetings were now hosted by the newly formed ACMA.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Minutes of previous meeting

ACMA staff tabled the minutes of the previous meeting of NAC 1 of 2005. The minutes were accepted without discussion.

2.2 Status of actions outstanding since NAC Meeting 1 of 2005

ACMA staff tabled the paper that outlined the status of the actions and recommendations arising from NAC meeting 1 of 2005. The following action items (in italics) arising from the last meeting were discussed:

2.2 Status of actions outstanding since NAC Meeting 1 of 2005

Action 2/1/05 ACMA staff to provide a copy of the proposal to amend the Numbering Plan to NAC members. (re CSP obligations)

ACMA staff reported that the status on this action item is not completed as indicated in the paper. ACMA is still scoping out the proposed Variation and how Chapter 10 will be amended. Discussions with TIO have been held. The draft Variation is still in progress and will be distributed to NAC members in due course.

3.1 Report on status of variations to the Numbering Plan

ACMA staff reported on the status of five variations to the Numbering Plan currently underway. Only the VoIP Variation is complex in nature. NAC comments have been taken into account in the current draft VoIP variation but it will not be circulated for public consultation until the Minister has released a statement on the VoIP issue. The variation associated with the creation of additional geographic numbers has been released for public consultation which ends in October.

4.1 Update on the data network access service portability

ACCC staff reported that the ACCC's final report on whether it should direct the ACA to set rules about data access service number portability was published in June 2005. The ACCC noted that they had received minimal responses from industry to the discussion paper. The ACCC concluded that it would not issue a direction to the ACA in respect of DNAS number portability.

5.1 Local Numbering Portability – movement of numbers outside the allocated SZU

Alexander Osborne, on behalf of ACIF ORP/WC36, tabled a paper about porting local numbers outside the SZU to which they were allocated. ACIF ORP/WC36 was formed to remove certain clauses from the LNP Code that require a ported number to remain within the donor exchange service area (ESA).

The paper noted that WC36 was at an impasse because the removal of the clauses was seen by some as creating difficulties for carriers in trying to meet their untimed local call obligations. The paper also notes that the clauses in question were unenforceable.

The paper suggested two ways of dealing with the issue:

1. That clauses within the LNP Code maintain a restriction that would require number to remain within the original SZU; or
2. To only include a reference within the LNP Code to Numbering Plan and the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Services Standards) Act*. Number use would then only be constrained by the Numbering Plan.

The second option was reliant upon amendments of sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the Numbering Plan that would ensure that numbers would not be permitted to move outside of the SZU. Suggested wording for the amendment was included in Appendix C of the paper.

ACMA staff responded that the Explanatory Statement to the numbering plan stated that the principle of chapter 3 of the Numbering Plan was that numbers were to be, issued or used in the SZU to which they were allocated.

The present wording of the numbering plan supported certain services, such as call diversion, but that these services did not actually involve allocating, issuing or using numbers outside the original SZU to which they were allocated. The suggested amendments, as presently worded, would render illegal these services where, unknown to the A-party, diversion or a similar process is relied upon to terminate a call outside the SZU. Therefore ACMA staff did not support the Working Party's recommended amendments.

Mike Elsegood whilst supportive of ACMA's view noted that certain standard features such as call diversion were temporary in nature and should be distinguished from permanent porting of numbers. There was also a need to consider the implications of technological developments that allowed numbers to be supported from any location, eg, VoIP. Optus stated that the Numbering Plan should better reflect the consensus view of ACIF members that geographic numbers should remain in the SZUs to which they were allocated.

ACMA staff noted that the issue of nomadicity does present new challenges to the Numbering Plan but it was a broader issue than portability and it was more appropriate to

consider that item later in the year when the government had made its position clear on VoIP services.

The merits of the proposed amendments and ACMA's response were discussed at length. Members were keen to seek a final resolution to the issue in order to finalise the LNP Code.

Alexander Osbourne stated that the Numbering Plan may need some amendment to ensure that it was clear that, from the point of view of portability, a geographic number should not be moved from the SZU to which it has been originally allocated. Telstra alleged that situations currently exist where numbers had been ported outside SZUs boundaries. ACMA stated that it had not been advised by industry or consumers that there were porting problems and if specific instances existed then this was a compliance matter for ACMA, not a policy one and it should not be linked to the LNP Code issues. Telstra stated it would forward instances of such breaches to ACMA.

ACMA staff reaffirmed that the restrictive clauses in the Code must be removed. The removal of these clauses from the LNP Code will not affect current legislative arrangements, as the Numbering Plan does not support the porting of numbers outside of the SZU to which they were allocated. ACMA staff also stated that the removal of the restrictive clauses in the LNP Code should be addressed immediately by the ACIF ORP/WC36.

Telstra stated that it could not support the progression of the LNP Code without some accommodation in the Numbering Plan. ACMA staff proposed an amendment to the Numbering Plan to insert a note which would clarify the issue that the allocation, issue or use of geographic numbers is restricted to the SZU to which they are allocated.

Telstra queried whether it would be possible to insert the same text with the same effect in the LNP Code. Worldcom stated this was an unnecessary duplication and would delay the issue of the LNP code. However, it was noted that the Explanatory Statement to the LNP Code could be amended to provide further clarification. There was general agreement to this view.

The wording of a note which was suggested for insertion in Chapter 3 of the Numbering Plan, as drafted at the meeting, is:

It is the intent of the Numbering Plan that geographic numbers are to be allocated, issued and used within the SZU to which they are allocated

Action 1/2/05 **ACMA staff to circulate draft note to NAC Members as soon as possible for comment.**

5.2 Use of geographic numbers: porting LGS numbers across geographic sectors

ACMA staff presented an information paper on the issue of porting geographic numbers across sector boundaries. ACMA noted that the intent of the Numbering Plan in capital cities is to restrict the issue of LGS numbers to the sector associated with its allocation. However, in order to provide flexibility for customers, ACMA allowed the use of numbers, including ports, within the SZU to which the numbers were allocated. ACMA provided this information to assist the ACIF LNP Working Group when considering the removal of the limitation on the porting of local services.

5.3 CSP Obligations (ROU)

ACMA staff reported that the two Codes have been registered and ACMA is currently scoping out amendments to Chapter 10 of the Numbering Plan. The draft Variation will be circulated in due course. ACMA staff noted that NAC members still have the opportunity to forward comments.

5.4 Numbers for trialling services

ACMA staff tabled a paper regarding numbering arrangements for use in trials of new telecommunications services.

The paper first considered trials of a type of service for which numbers are already specified in the Numbering Plan. Numbers may be allocated for a finite period (or longer if desired) via the normal allocation process.

For trials of those types of new services for which numbers are not specified in the Numbering Plan, the paper proposed to establish a Register for Use of Trial Numbers on the ACMA website as a less formal alternative to the normal application process. The paper also discussed numbering arrangements for new services not presently specified in the Plan. ACMA staff consider that the likely areas for new trial services would be inbound services in the 1X number range, or various 'NGN' services. It is proposed to set aside a range of numbers for trial services in the 1X range and a limited range of numbers for trial services in the 05 range. The existence of the UPT service and the ENUM trial in the 05 range, provide some synergy with this proposal.

Telstra queried whether the allocation of numbers to trial new services were merely a temporary allocation and what were the implications for permanent allocations and continuity of service. Optus noted that demand for such numbers may be infrequent but it would be adverse to the successful transition into new services if there were delays because customers could not retain the numbers allocated for the trial. Optus advocated more number ranges than the two proposed as it considered them too restrictive.

ACMA staff said that timeframes for the specification of new number ranges within the Numbering Plan were likely to be expedited as there is a proposal to shorten the public consultation period to 30 days.

Action 2/2/05 **NAC members are requested to provide written comment on the proposal put forward in the paper tabled, with particular reference to the matters highlighted in the paper.**

5.5 Allocation of geographic numbers to some SZUs in a reduced unit size.

ACMA staff tabled a brief paper for information only. It was noted this issue had been finalised and a policy has been distributed and is already in place. ACMA staff informed the meeting that some allocations have been made at the hundred number block level already. Telstra queried what effects this may have upon switches. To date there have been five applications.

5.6 Update on Progress of ENUM Trial

ACMA staff tabled a paper on the progress of the ENUM Trial. On 5 May 2005 AusRegistry International was announced by the Minister as the Tier 1 Registry Operator selected for the ENUM Trial in Australia. The website was launched on the same day at www.enum.com.au and will be operated by AusRegistry International. This Registry will provide the authoritative source of information about all Australian ENUM domain names.

The Australian ENUM trial commenced on 6 June 2005 and the trial is planned to run for 12 months with an option to extend for another 12 months. To date 3 organisations have been accredited as Registrars for the trial: Ernetica, Instra Corporation and AARNet. The number range 059 has been specified in the Numbering for use only in the ENUM trial. Domain names corresponding to 059 numbers can be registered by anyone via one of the trial Registrars. The Australian ENUM Discussion Group (AEDG) is working towards developing arrangements for including some existing geographic and mobile numbers into the trial. The AEDG is scheduled to meet on 26 August 2005. A brief report of the previous AEDG meeting is included in the paper presented.

5.7 Update on the ACMA's new Numbering database – charging arrangements

ACMA staff presented a brief paper on the status of the New NUMB database and noted this would be the final update on the commissioning of the new system. The New NUMB database went live to public users on the 1 July 2005. New NUMB supports online applications and an approvals process for each separate block of numbers allocated. The paper outlines the new charging arrangement that came into place on the 1 July 2005. The previous uniform flat charge has been replaced by charges based on the time it takes to process applications. This also relates to whether application is off-line or on-line, and the number of number blocks applied for (please refer to paper for details). ACMA staff urged all CSPs to register as a user. Telstra noted they were having some

difficulty in obtaining a digital certificate because it was necessary to register as an individual and the need to provide 100 points of identification.

Vodafone wanted to know if payments could be made on-line. ACMA noted this was not possible at present but CSPs could pay by cash, cheque or enter into a credit arrangement with ACMA. ACMA confirmed that it did not finalise applications until payment is received but it will consider enhancements to the online applications process such as online payments after a suitable period (12 months) of satisfactory operation.

5.8 Update on smartnumbers® auctions

ACMA staff provided an update on the operation of ACMA smartnumbers® auction system. The paper provided:

- statistics on the number of allocations by public and charities auctions ; and
- noted that in accordance with the new determinations made in March 2005, 51 defaulted numbers have been made available for re-auction. The majority were made available for auction on 21 June 2005; and
- ACMA reported that the smartnumbers® website has been redesigned to present information in a simpler and user friendly format.

5.9 Update on Numbering arrangements for VoIP services

ACMA staff presented a paper outlining the status of policy development regarding numbering arrangements for VoIP services in Australia.

After the last meeting NAC members were invited to provide comments on the paper then presented which summarised submissions received as a result of the public discussion paper released in October 2004. (These comments are summarised in the paper presented).

ACMA is drafting a paper for public consultation concerning proposed changes to the Numbering Plan to accommodate VoIP services. ACMA is awaiting a statement from the government about VoIP before commencing this next consultation process.

6.1 Quarterly report of allocations, surrenders and permanent transfers

In lieu of the quarterly report ACMA staff provided NAC members with a procedures on how to access New NUMB and download reports on allocations, surrenders and transfers. Powertel said it found the reports useful and would like to continue receiving them. AACMA staff pointed out that the previous reports simply listed the transactions and there was no analysis of the data.

Action 3/2/05 ACMA staff to continue to provide the summary page of allocations, surrenders and permanent transfers at NAC Meetings.

7.1 New issues for next meeting

No issues were raised for the next meeting.

8.1 GSM Software Rel 6 – use of international emergency

ACMA staff noted this issue was raised by Telstra. The concern was whether GSM mobile phones that complied with Rel.6, and thus programmed to accept overseas emergency numbers, were compliant with the Australian Numbering Plan. The concern was that if an end user attempted to dial a local number commencing '911' would it then signal an emergency on the network rather than connect to the correct geographic number. ITU advice indicated that this functionality had been in existence for some years and does not appear to present any problems. AD hoc testing by ACMA staff indicated that geographic numbers commencing with '911xxxxx' are passed onto the network for number analysis. If the caller dials '911' it is passed onto the network as an emergency signal. ACMA referred to the advice to that effect, attached for members to consider.

Action 4/2/05 If NAC members wish to provide comments to the ITU on the Rel 6 standard these should be provided by 29 July 2005.

8.2 Outcomes of discussion on action7/1/05

This issue arose from a paper presented at the last meeting by AAPT in regard to allocating geographic numbers on an individual basis. Since then ACMA has held discussion with industry and CSPs. The proposal was that a donor CSP would be responsible for managing a pool of numbers and these could be temporarily transferred to another CSP who could issue the numbers in smaller blocks. In addition to the transfer there would be a porting arrangement in place.

Whilst this is technical feasible (transfers and porting are supported in the Numbering Plan), discussion with INMS and Paradigm One indicated that they did not regard it as commercially viable. Discussion with Telstra about the possible benefits of the new scheme indicated that they could see little benefit. Furthermore, while there may be some benefit for new entrants to the industry, on closer examination the only real savings to be made would be in regard to the cost of allocation applications. In short they concluded the benefits were minimal.

ACMA staff noted that if there were a critical shortage of numbers it may prove useful but this is not a foreseeable situation as large allocation applications have decreased. ACMA concluded there were no strong drivers to create a regulatory imperative and it did not appear to be commercially feasible service.

9.1 Next Meeting

The next NAC meeting will be in Melbourne on 30 November 2005.