

## NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of Meeting 3 of 2006

Wednesday, 8 November 2006  
ACMA, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney

#### Attendees: Sydney

1.	Alexander Osborne	Hutchison Telecoms
2.	Chris Cheah (Chair)	ACMA
3.	Duncan MacAuslan	ACMA
4.	Eleanor Kay	ACMA
5.	Geoff Brann	Powertel
6.	George Dionisopoulos	AAPT
7.	Gina Hsu	ACMA
8.	John Edwards	TXT4
9.	John Kington	ACMA
10.	Jozef Gorup	ENGIN
11.	Mark McGregor	ACMA
12.	Megan McEwin	INMS
13.	Sarah Wilson	CTN

#### Attendees: Melbourne

1.	Brendon Callister	Telstra
2.	Andy Byrne	ACMA
3.	Chris Wong	ACMA
4.	Gary Fraser	ACMA
5.	Grant Symons	ACMA
6.	Grant Young	ACCC
7.	Guy Di Paola	Telstra
8.	Harin Perera	ACMA

9.	Mary Stavropoulos	ACMA
10.	Mathew Care	APWA
11.	Michael Elsegood	Optus
12.	Robert Johnston	ACMA
13.	Robert Urquhart	ACMA
14.	Susan Horne	ACMA
15.	Suzanne Cumming	ACMA

### **Teleconference**

1.	Nikki Vajrabukka	DCITA
2.	Emily Burt	DCITA
3.	Mary-Jane Salier	Verizon

### **Apologies**

1.	Jonquil Ritter	ACMA
2.	David Havyatt	AAPT
3.	Van Le	Vodafone
4.	Martin Vella	Primus

## 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair, Chris Cheah of ACMA, welcomed participants and tabled the apologies for the meeting. He advised that he would chair future NAC meetings, in accordance with ACMA's policy of having all external consultative forums chaired by a full-time Authority member.

## 2. BUSINESS ARISING

### 2.1 Minutes of previous meeting

ACMA tabled the minutes of the previous meeting. They were adopted after amendment, by deleting Sarah Greenstreet's name (Telstra) from the Melbourne attendee list.

### 2.2 Status of actions outstanding since NAC Meeting 2 of 2006

ACMA tabled a paper outlining the status of the actions and recommendations arising from the NAC meeting 2 of 2006. All outstanding actions were completed except action 8/2/06. ACMA's examination of the issue has led to the conclusion that the underlying issues have broader implications within the Numbering Plan. ACMA decided to defer the item to allow more time for internal consultation.

ACMA provided an information paper in response to Action 2/1/06 and put it on the agenda, at item 5.2, for discussion.

Reference	Action	Status	Comments	Action/ team
Action 2/1/06	ACMA to develop a paper to consider options available to minimise the service disruption to customers in the event of a CSP going out of business	Complete	An information paper was provided.	ACMA
Action 8/2/06	ACMA will put the issue of using geographic numbers outside their zones	In progress	Deferred. ACMA is researching this issue and preparing a paper.	ACMA

## 3. STANDING ITEMS

The Chair announced the agenda items corresponding to each of the standing items. Powertel enquired about the VoIP action item, 3/1/06, and the 1223 re-specification issue. The Chair advised that these two issues will be discussed at agenda items 5.3 and 10.

## **4. REGULAR REPORTS**

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

ACMA tabled a report on the status of variations to the Plan. It was accepted without discussion.

### **4.2 Report on numbering transactions**

ACMA tabled a report on numbering transactions. It listed allocations for the period 22 July 2006 to 7 November 2006, and advised that there were no variations, surrenders, transfers or withdrawals to existing allocations during the reporting period. It was accepted without discussion.

## **5. UPDATE OF IN-PROGRESS ITEMS**

### **5.1 Progress on implementation of SMS response on 13/1300 numbers**

The Chair invited INMS to brief the meeting on the progress of short message service (SMS) implementation on freephone and local rate numbers. Megan McEwin of INMS spoke to the previously distributed NAC paper 5.1. INMS held two workshops attended by mobile carriers and inbound carriers. At these workshops agreement was reached on a preferred model for the high level routing of the messages. The issue was then referred to the Communications Alliance.

Alexander R Osborne, of Hutchison Telecommunications, reported that a meeting at the Communications Alliance on 3 November 2006 agreed to establish an ongoing working group that he would Chair. He then spoke to a briefing paper, circulated on 7 November. Other outcomes of the Communications Alliance meeting were:

- the previous technical sub-group will continue and refine its technical report into a Communications Alliance guideline;
- a further sub-group will be formed to consider service related issues, including meeting customer expectations; and
- a gap analysis will be conducted to determine if SMS on freephone and local rate numbers matters are adequately covered by existing instruments or whether further documentation is required. Changes to INMS business rules and the development of some form of facts sheet are likely to be required.

He reported that the previously mooted trial, supported by about 20 customers, is now expected to commence on 1 February. It will run for three months and be extended for another three months, if necessary.

During discussion of the issue the Consumers Telecommunications Network (CTN) suggested the inclusion of a consumer representative on the service related issues sub-group.

In response to a question from the Chair, Alexander Osbourne advised that the earliest possible date for commercial launch of the service provision is 6 months after commencement of the trial.

## **5.2 Re-allocation of Numbers and Services on Carriage Service Provider being placed in Administration**

The Chair advised that the purpose of this agenda item was to allow discussion of the paper ACMA distributed prior to the meeting in response to Action item 4 of NAC 2/2006. An ACMA staff member spoke to the paper describing procedures followed by ACMA when a carrier and carriage service provider is placed in liquidation and the options available to minimise the disruption.

During discussion, Hutchison Telecommunications suggested that ACMA advise the Communications Alliance when it becomes aware that a CSP has gone out of business. ACMA advised that it would do so and amend the paper to include advising the Communications Alliance.

**Action 1/3/06 ACMA to amend paper 5.2 of NAC 3/2006 to include advising the Communications Alliance when it becomes aware that a Carriage Service Provider has been placed in administration**

## **5.3 VoIP services update**

ACMA's VoIP Coordinator advised that, further to Action item 3/1/06, the Communications Alliance is reviewing all its guidelines. If required, it may consider developing a network routing plan for the proposed new VoIP number range as part of this process, once ACMA has amended the Numbering Plan.

ACMA staff advised that the delay in varying the Numbering Plan to make provision for the 0550 number range is due to the need to work through issues related to emerging services. After options are developed, another paper will be submitted to the Authority for decision.

## **5.4 ENUM trial update**

A verbal report was provided on the current status of ENUM trial. The major updates addressed by ACMA were that the Australian ENUM Discussion Group (AEDG) met on 1 November, there are two fully accredited Registrars participating in the ENUM trial, the Instra Corporation and AARNet, and there were 266 ENUM registrations at the meeting date.

There are three major issues under discussion within the AEDG:

1. the staging of the Australian ENUM Day seminar in November;
2. the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA); and
3. authentication processes to enable geographic and mobile numbers to be included in the ENUM trial.

The report was received without discussion.

## **5.5 Smartnumbers® update**

ACMA advised that the paper distributed on this topic is an advance copy of an about-to-be-released, public discussion paper.

The paper will seek comments on proposed amendments to regulatory arrangements for auctioning **smartnumbers**®. It identifies a number of issues for consideration which include:

- introducing a cooling-off period for nominated numbers so that the numbers can be withdrawn prior to the auction;
- clarifying the strategic link requirement for eligible charity applications for **smartnumbers**®; and
- clarifying **smartnumber**® arrangements in relation to possible hoarding.

During discussion, INMS asked how many charity organisations have stretched the strategic link definition. ACMA responded that there been only one or two instances to date but that these have indicated the need for it to be tightened.

INMS also asked if ACMA will write to **smartnumbers**® holders, identified in INMS reports to have numbers they have not activated for close to the 3 year ‘use-it-or-lose-it’ period. ACMA advised that it has commenced writing to **smartnumbers**® holders, whose numbers had remained inactive for 2 years or more.

CTN asked how many **smartnumbers**® had been auctioned. ACMA advised that the total, to date, is approximately 14,000.

## **6. OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING ADDITIONAL NUMBERS FOR FIVE AREAS**

ACMA staff spoke to a paper, distributed prior to the meeting, identifying five areas running short of geographic numbers for allocation to CSPs, and seeking comment on proposed options to provide additional numbers.

During discussion, Powertel asked what assumptions have been made about the demand for geographic numbers, given that PSTN is decreasing in use. ACMA responded that it is difficult to predict the future demand for numbers and uses instead historical allocation trends.

Optus expressed concern about the impact of new CSPs taking large blocks of geographic numbers. ACMA commented that eight million geographic numbers have been allocated leaving a total of approximately 20 million numbers remaining, albeit constrained by the geographic allocation system.

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| <b>Action 2/3/06</b> | <b>NAC members to provide comment on proposed options to provide additional numbers in five areas by 22 November 2006.</b> |
| <b>Action 3/3/06</b> | <b>ACMA to develop a discussion paper on the way it monitors and handles shortages of geographic numbers.</b>              |

## **7. INTEGRITY AND USE OF GEOGRAPHIC ALLOCATION RECORDS**

ACMA spoke to a paper, distributed prior to the meeting, to seek the agreement of the NAC to form a working group to consider and provide advice to ACMA and CSPs on the integrity and use of geographic allocation records. The Chair indicated that this was an issue of concern to the Authority, and that the objective was to ensure the information in ACMA's Register and that in use by CSPs was correct.

Telstra raised two issues to be considered before forming the group. First, the accuracy of historic data, as most of its numbers date back to 1991; and, second, ongoing procedures to ensure the integrity of numbering records. ACMA agreed that there were two streams, as identified by Telstra, including the ongoing issue of misuse of geographic numbers.

In response to a question, ACMA advised it expected to convene the first meeting of the working group before Christmas via teleconference.

ACMA noted that the working group was not expected to identify solutions to problems before next meeting, but to commence considering issues and to provide a preliminary report to first NAC meeting of 2007.

NAC participants agreed to the formation of the working group. ACMA will contact participants by email and telephone to recruit members.

**Action 4/3/06 ACMA to contact NAC participants to form a working group.**

## **8. NETWORK COLOUR CODES**

ACMA sought comment from NAC participants on a paper, distributed prior to the meeting, proposing the allocation of a network colour code to Norfolk Telecom, for use by base stations of the GSM mobile network currently being established on Norfolk Island. Comment was also sought on the effectiveness of existing allocation arrangements.

Hutchison Telecommunications noted that network colour codes have relevance only to GSM networks.

The Optus representative advised that he is not aware of any problems but would check and comment after the meeting.

The Meeting agreed with the proposed allocation of a code to Norfolk Telecom and concluded that, subject to any further comment by Optus, the existing allocation arrangements are effective.

## **9. ANNUAL NUMBERING CHARGES**

ACMA tabled a paper that outlined the process for, and the timing of, the 2007 annual numbering charges arrangements. It advised that:

- annual numbering charges arrangements for 2007 will be similar to those used in 2006;
- a standard rate of charge of approximately \$0.90 per 10-digit number will be required to meet the revenue target of \$60 million;
- the census date is expected to be 1 April 2007; and
- an embargo on processing surrender applications will commence 15 working days prior to the census date, i.e. from 8 March 2007.

In response to a question from INMS, ACMA confirmed that the embargo does not apply to premium rate numbers.

## **10. RE-SPECIFICATION OF 1223**

The Chair advised that this issue has been discussed in the Authority and in-principle decisions have been taken. The cornerstones of these are:

- recognition of the need for flexibility; and
- maintaining directory assistance principles.

ACMA staff are preparing a draft variation to the Numbering Plan and will seek public consultation in the future.

In response to comments about the time to be allowed for consultation, ACMA advised that it would be at least 30 days but any intrusion of holiday periods would be considered when setting the response date.

## **11. ONGOING OPERATION OF THE NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Chair advised that the review of the NAC is part of a wider check of the relevance of all ACMA external advisory committees. He said that some ineffective advisory committees had been replaced by other consultation means, and that ACMA had decided that an Authority member would chair all remaining formally constituted advisory committees. He observed that he had written to all NAC participants on 14 September to introduce himself as the new NAC Chair and to seek comments about how the NAC should operate in future. The Chair thanked DCITA and Optus for their written feedback. He observed that the NAC seems to be effective but that 90% of the agenda items for this meeting were provided by ACMA. He said he would like to see more information come from the industry and more new entrants represented.

In response, industry participants made the following comments:

- INMS commented that in the past meetings NAC members have agreed that there should be a review of the Numbering Plan but that ACMA has not been able to find the resources to do so.
- CTN and APWA commented that the committee is helpful for small organisations to keep across issues and to make industry contacts.
- EGIN observed that VoIP providers with a telecommunications background see benefit in the NAC, but that those from other backgrounds are not aware of the benefits of participating in a committee like this.
- Hutchison Telecommunications observed that even though ACMA provided most of the agenda items many lead to robust industry discussion.
- INMS observed that it would like ACMA to identify the option it favours when it identifies available options in discussion papers.

ACMA sought comments on the discussion points included in the paper distributed prior to the meeting. Comments made by participants included:

### ***General Effectiveness of the NAC***

- INMS pointed out that NAC has been losing long serving members who have comprehensive knowledge of the Numbering Plan and its history.

- Telstra responded that the reality of the industry is that individuals move on, but that the value of the committee lies in its collective expertise. This includes expertise that participants can bring to the committee from their organisations.
- ACMA asked if participants would like to see more presentations such as the one from TXT4. APWA responded that its members found that presentation to be very helpful.

#### ***Appropriateness of the existing terms of reference***

- DCITA believes that the terms of reference are broad enough to encompass new issues, but has no objection to Optus's suggestion to add the word 'timely'.
- Telstra reinforced the need for the inclusion of 'timely', stating that CSPs need variations to the Numbering Plan to get products to the market.

#### ***Clarification, and possible expansion, of NAC membership***

- Hutchison Telecommunications suggested that papers be made available to smaller players so that they do not have to attend meetings to be involved. Additionally, that ACMA advise outcomes between meetings.
- APWA indicated that it would appreciate a standing invitation to NAC meetings, with a view to becoming a full member at some time in the future.

#### ***Importance attached to NAC advice***

- Optus commented that, as the industry is expected to be moving toward self-regulation, ACMA should implement NAC consensus positions without change. Also, that there is a feeling that the NAC does not have much power.
- INMS observed that the NAC has not had much effect on outcomes but was a great source of information.
- ACMA responded that the NAC does directly, and indirectly, influence ACMA: all NAC feedback is taken into account and consensus within the NAC is very persuasive.

#### ***International numbering developments***

- The Chair observed that he sees numbering and internet addressing converging and, if the government and industry want to contribute, we should consider whether the NAC is an appropriate body to do so.
- DCITA commented that International Telecommunication Union (ITU) input is usually quite technical so DCITA policy areas only become involved when technical matters raise policy issues. In contrast, DCITA policy branches contribute directly to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
- INMS and Optus agreed that the NAC should at least be aware of international trends, but were cautious about whether the NAC should attempt to contribute actively to their development.

#### ***The NAC should take a more principles based approach***

- Optus agreed that it should and gave the following examples:
  - do we have the right approach to allocating geographic numbers to new entrants?
  - could the Numbering Plan be re-written so that fewer variations are required?
  - the Numbering Plan should include principles for how shared numbers may be used; and
  - is the concept of sectors in metropolitan areas any longer relevant?
- Powertel observed that the concept of the untimed local call underpins much of the Numbering Plan.

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

The Chair called for suggestions for industry initiated agenda items for the next meeting. He asked that proposers be prepared to develop papers to support their items. The following suggestions were made:

- INMS and Hutchinson Telecommunications will provide a further update on the implementation of SMS on freephone and local rate numbers.
- Hutchison Telecommunications suggested the need for a review of the Numbering Plan.
- Optus suggested a proposal for NAC to examine the need for sector boundaries in capital city inner charge zones.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair made the following announcements:

1. ACMA will contact NAC participants to recruit members for the working group on the integrity and use of geographic numbers; and
2. Any comment on the review of the NAC should be provided by the end of November.

## **14. NEXT MEETING**

ACMA advised the Committee that the proposed dates and locations for NAC meetings in 2007 are as follows:

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|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| • <b>NAC 1/2007</b> | <b>Melbourne</b> | <b>28 February 2007</b> |
| • <b>NAC 2/2007</b> | <b>Sydney</b>    | <b>23 May 2007</b>      |
| • <b>NAC 3/2007</b> | <b>Melbourne</b> | <b>22 August 2007</b>   |
| • <b>NAC 4/2007</b> | <b>Sydney</b>    | <b>21 November 2007</b> |

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm.