

NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 2 of 2007

Wednesday, 23 May 2007

ACMA, 360 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

Attendees: Melbourne

1.	Grant Young	ACCC
2.	Anthony Shaw	ACMA
3.	Chris Wong	ACMA
4.	Duncan MacAuslan	ACMA
5.	Gina Hsu	ACMA
6.	Guy Di Paola	Telstra
7.	Harin Perera	ACMA
8.	John Neil	ACMA
9.	Jonquil Ritter	ACMA (Chair)
10.	Mark McGregor	ACMA
11.	Martin Vella	Primus
12.	Mary Stavropoulos	ACMA
13.	Mat Care	APWA
14.	Michael Elsegood	Optus
15.	Robert Johnston	ACMA
16.	Susan Horne	ACMA
17.	Suzanne Cumming	ACMA

Attendees: Sydney

1.	Alexander Osborne	Hutchison Telecoms
2.	Arti Sharma	Vodafone
3.	Geoff Brann	PowerTel

4.	Jack Singleton	APWA
5.	John Kington	ACMA
6.	Le, Van	Vodafone
7.	Margaret Fleming	Communications Alliance
8.	Megan McEwin	INMS
9.	Simone Newton	Engin
10.	Mary-Jane Salier	Verizon
11.	Mark Kubale	Commander

Teleconference

1.	Tracey Smith	DCITA
2.	Teresa Corbin	CTN

Apologies

1.	Chris Cheah	ACMA
2.	Mark Loney	ACMA
3.	George Dionisopoulos	AAPT

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Ms Jonquil Ritter of ACMA chaired the meeting from the ACMA Melbourne office. She introduced herself and welcomed participants. She also tabled the apologies for the meeting.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Minutes of previous meeting

ACMA tabled the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the 28 February 2007 meeting, circulated before the meeting, were adopted without amendment.

2.2 Status of actions outstanding since NAC Meeting 2 of 2006

ACMA tabled a paper outlining the status of the actions arising from the NAC meeting 1 of 2007. All outstanding actions were noted as complete with the exception of action 5/1/07, which is still in progress.

Reference	Action	Status	Comments	Action/ Team
Action 5/1/07	ACMA to work with CSPs to refine suggestions for conserving the supply of geographic numbers	In progress	Draft paper being prepared by ACMA	ACMA

3. STANDING ITEMS

The Chair announced the agenda items corresponding to each of the standing items.

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, circulated before the meeting. The report was accepted without discussion.

4.2 Report on numbering transactions

ACMA tabled a report on numbering transactions. It listed allocations, surrenders and permanent transfers of numbers for the period 7 February 2007 to 17 April 2007.

5. UPDATE OF IN-PROGRESS ITEMS

5.1 Report on the progress of the Numbering Plan Review Working Group

ACMA staff reported verbally on the formation and progress of the Numbering Plan Review Working Group and thanked participants for their contributions.

At the last NAC meeting on 28 February, ACMA agreed to form a NAC Numbering Plan Review Working Group (WG). The purpose of the WG is to consider issues and options for refining the Numbering Plan and promoting its readability. The first WG meeting, in which a large percentage of NAC members participated, was held on 4 May 2007. Draft minutes of the first WG meeting have been circulated to attendees and comments have been received.

ACMA staff advised that, when established, it was intended that the WG focus on improving the procedural detail as well as the readability of the Numbering Plan. There appears general agreement from industry that the Numbering Plan should provide greater flexibility and clarity to carriers and carriage service providers in relation to the specification and allocation of numbers. A number of constraints, such as the requirement for untimed local calls, mean that some things must be outside the review's scope.

In the meeting, WG members presented a range of views on the scope of the review. One view was to review the Numbering Plan from first principles and significantly re-draft it. At the other end of the scale was the view that only minimal changes should be made because the primary legislation is likely to be reviewed within the next few years.

ACMA staff advised that a summary of the WG minutes will be circulated to NAC members in the next few weeks. Any further comments or suggestions from NAC members would be appreciated.

In the process of discussion, the Hutchison representative suggested that Schedule 12 of the Numbering Plan is no longer useful and should be deleted. ACMA staff responded that this will be considered as part of the review.

ACMA staff will give further consideration to the scope of the review after all suggestions have been received.

5.2 NAC working group on data integrity of geographic allocation records update

The ACMA WG convener spoke to a report, circulated prior to the meeting, on the progress made by the working group. At the previous meeting of 28 February 2007, ACMA circulated a paper to invite comment on the working group's terms of reference. The convener advised that no comments have been received so the terms of reference have been finalised.

A meeting was held on 9 May to review the draft guidelines for CSPs, developed by the WG, to ensure geographic allocation records are accurate.

He also advised that another purpose of the WG is to ensure that the pre-1997 historical records listed in Schedule 12 of the *Telecommunications Numbering Plan 1997* are accurate. For this reason, ACMA staff have written to CSPs requesting that an audit of these records be undertaken.

Industry members raised questions about the need for the Schedule 12 allocation records to be checked because:

- the records were historical;

- it was unlikely these records would be inaccurate; and
- there were no charging implications.

ACMA responded that:

- its analysis showed that charging anomalies did occur as a result of inaccuracies in Schedule 12 data;
- it is more efficient for industry and ACMA to batch required changes to Schedule 12 because each change requires a variation to the Numbering Plan ; and
- the audit is intended to complete a process that was initiated to remove other charging inaccuracies after some anomalies in schedule 12 data were identified and corrected by ACMA.

ACMA did acknowledge that, in requesting the affected CSPs to undertake their audits, that ACMA would try to minimise the amount of work required by those CSPs as much as practicable.

The Chair commented that the Numbering Plan Review WG is examining this issue.

5.3 Update on progress of supplementing areas running short of geographic numbers in the next 10 years

At the previous meeting, ACMA staff made a presentation exploring how the introduction of a new prefix could be more closely aligned with the exhaustion of numbers associated with an existing prefix. Comments supporting the proposal were received from PowerTel and Optus. ACMA staff advised NAC members the proposal will be considered at the Authority meeting on 24 May 2007. If it is accepted, a draft variation of the Numbering Plan will be developed and released for public consultation in July.

The Optus representative commended ACMA for quickly progressing this matter.

5.4 Trial numbers – report and discussion of draft variation

ACMA staff reported verbally on the introduction of a trial number range. Its objective is to facilitate the trialling of new services. These services are likely to be innovative, location independent, and supplied on an IP-based network. Thus, the small 0570 number range, similar to the 0550 range, has been made available. ACMA staff advised that a draft variation to the Numbering Plan has been circulated to NAC members for comment. One submission, from Telstra, has been received. In the meeting, ACMA staff called for comments on the following specific issues:

- the demand for another 05xx number range to be made available for services that will probably be similar to those which will be supplied on 0550 i.e. IP-based;
- the suitability of the number range ACMA has proposed; and
- are there any concerns on the draft to be released for public consultation.

The Optus representative responded that it is difficult to comment because they do not know what the charging regime for 0550 will be.

The Telstra representative also raised the issue of how numbers used in a trial could become permanent. He said carriers would not want to change numbers if a trial was successful and the trial services moved to commercial operation.

5.5 Smartnumbers® update

ACMA staff reported on a paper circulated before the meeting. NAC members were informed of changes to the regulatory arrangements for auctioning smartnumbers®. ACMA staff advised that the Authority has signed the determinations making the changes, which came into effect on 19 May 2007.

The Optus representative remarked that he was not able to find numbering auction information on the ACMA website. An ACMA staff member responded that the auction database, which shows all successful bidders of numbering auctions, can be downloaded in Excel format from the ACMA website.

5.6 ENUM update

At the NAC meeting of 28 February 2007, Telstra requested ACMA provide an overview of the terms of reference and the associated timeline of the ENUM trial. In response, an ACMA staff member reported on a paper, circulated prior to the meeting, that summarised the objectives of the trial. He advised that ENUM trial began in June 2005 with an initial duration of 12 months but was extended for a further 12 months to conclude on 6 June this year.

ACMA staff advised that the objectives of the ENUM trial are outlined in the Context Document for the Australian ENUM trial, which is available on ACMA's website. These objectives were grouped into commercial, consumer, regulatory and technical categories.

ACMA staff reported that three main issues remain for the Australian ENUM Discussion Group (AEDG):

- **Trialling of ENUM domains corresponding to geographic and mobile numbers:** limited trials will be conducted by AEDG participants in the last few weeks of the trial.
- **Infrastructure ENUM:** An infrastructure ENUM Working Group has been established within the AEDG to further investigate the technical and implementation issues around infrastructure ENUM.
- **Evaluation of the ENUM trial:** the AEDG has established a working group to evaluate the trial and draft a report, which is expected to be available in September 2007.

5.7 Implementation of the release of 0500 range - issues arising

ACMA staff reported on a paper on the implementation of the release of the 0500 number range. The implementation of the new service type Location independent Communications services (LICS) and the 0500 number range for IP-based services is expected to be effective on 31 May 2007. ACMA has developed information about the introduction of these services that it will mail to all new CSPs.

The Communications Alliance representative reported that, following a VOIP meeting held yesterday, her organisation was considering setting up an 0550 WG on pricing and portability.

The Telstra representative expressed the view that it is premature to consider pricing and portability before someone had a service to offer. The Communications Alliance representative responded that this is a chicken and egg situation – a view has been expressed that no one will offer a service until pricing and portability has been addressed.

The Hutchinson representative remarked that VOIP is intended to be a low cost service but without pricing principles this could be thwarted by a charging/interconnect regime.

The Vodafone representative raised questions on the definition of Location Independent Communications Services (LICS) as well as the use of the 0550 range on mobile data systems. Considerable debate ensued on whether mobiles are permitted to use the 0550 range when a VOIP services is being provided via a cellular telephone data system, despite their exclusion from using the range when providing voice services via a cellular telephone network. ACMA asked to take the question on notice.

Action 1/2/07	Vodafone to email its question on the use of the 0550 range on mobile data systems and ACMA to respond via the NAC email distribution list.
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5.8 Implementation of changes to the ongoing operation of the Numbering Advisory Committee

ACMA staff reported on implementation of the recommendations of the review of the NAC. The progress reports follow each recommendation listed below.

1. ACMA consider implementing a broadly attended annual meeting to develop an agenda of work items for the coming year. *Progress to date has been limited to some internal brainstorming.*
2. ACMA amends its NAC webpage to invite smaller organisations to request to be added to a mailing list to receive NAC agendas and minutes. *The draft changes have been developed and will be implemented shortly.*
3. ACMA staff identify candidate smaller organisation and contact them directly to determine their interest in being added to the mailing list. *Invitations will be mailed to the 1050 CSPs that are TIO members.*
4. ACMA staff give consideration to expanding the representation of carriage service providers, while maintaining a balanced membership and manageable numbers. *Ongoing.*
5. ACMA staff recommend that the Authority appoint to the NAC observers that have indicated a desire to become members. *A paper recommending the appointment of additional members has been drafted and will be considered by the Authority prior to the next NAC meeting.*
6. The TIO should be invited to attend on a needs basis to address specific issues. *An invitation will be sent at the same time as the mail-out to CSPs.*
7. NAC considerations should extend beyond the contexts of particular cases, to address the principles at stake. *This is an on-going recommendation to be implemented as issues arise.*

8. ACMA aim to circulate a draft action list within two weeks of a NAC meeting, and minutes no later than within four weeks (within two weeks whenever possible). *The NAC Secretariat has adopted these targets.*
9. A strategy is required to better inform VoIP providers about Numbering Plan issues and get them involved in the regulatory debate. *ACMA has accepted this as a compliance issue.*

6. Procedural changes to annual numbering charges

ACMA staff reported on a paper to advise NAC members about ACMA’s proposed amendment to annual numbering charges. The purpose of this paper is to update NAC members on the process used for collecting annual numbering charges. NAC members were advised that ACMA proposed to include a formula in the *Telecommunications (Amounts of Annual Charge) Determination*. This proposed change is intended to increase the efficiency and reduce administration costs for both ACMA and telecommunications industry by avoiding the need to amend the Determination each year to specify the amount of the charges.

The comment by the ACMA staff member that industry ultimately pays the cost of administration of the annual numbering charge via ACMA cost recovery process resulted in considerable debate. The Optus representative commented that ACMA’s administrative cost should not be passed on to the industry. The Chair asked ACMA staff to clarify ACMA’s cost recovery approach and advise NAC members via email.

Action 2/2/07	ACMA to clarify the application of cost recovery to the process of collecting the annual numbering charges.
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7. New Issues for Next Meeting

The Chair invited members to propose agenda items for the next meeting.

An ACMA staff member advised she will report progress on raising public awareness of the new prefixes released recently.

8. Other Business

No new business was raised.

9. Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on 22 August 2007, dependent on sufficient issues arising by then. A number of issues featured on the agendas of the previous meetings have been completed. If there are insufficient issues to fill in agenda, the next meeting will be deferred until later in the year.

The meeting closed at 12pm.