

Prohibited devices— Mobile phone jammers

What are mobile phone jammers?

Mobile phone jammers, also known as PMTS jammers, transmit signals that interfere with mobile phone networks and mobile phone reception.

What harm do mobile phone jammers cause?

These devices disrupt frequency bands used for the supply of mobile telecommunications services, affecting the proper use of mobile phones.

Most importantly, they can stop access to emergency services, such as police, ambulance and fire services.

Can I operate a mobile phone jamming device?

No. Mobile phone jammers are prohibited.

The Radiocommunications (Prohibition of PMTS Jamming Devices) Declaration 2011 prohibits the **operation** or **supply**, or **possession** for the purpose of operation or supply, of a mobile phone jammer.

What about GPS jammers?

GPS jammers transmit signals that interfere with GPS signalling and reception. They are also prohibited.

What are the penalties for using mobile phone jammers?

Various offences apply under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, depending on how the person caught with the device was using it.

Offences include:

- > the operation or supply of a prohibited device, which can attract a penalty of two years

- imprisonment (if the offender is an individual), body corporates may receive a penalty of over \$300,000 (1,500 penalty units)—section 189
- > causing interference likely to prejudice the safe operation of vessels, aircraft or space object, which can attract a penalty of five years imprisonment (if the offender is an individual) or 5,000 penalty units (over \$1 million) for body corporates—section 192
- > causing interference in relation to certain radiocommunications (including to rescue and emergency call service organisations such as police, fire, ambulance), which can attract a penalty of five years imprisonment (if the offender is an individual) or 5,000 penalty units (over \$1 million) for body corporates—section 193
- > causing interference likely to endanger safety of another person or cause another person to suffer or incur substantial loss or damage, which can attract a penalty of five years imprisonment (if the offender is an individual) or 5,000 penalty units (over \$1 million) for body corporates—section 194
- > reckless conduct that causes substantial interference with radiocommunications, or substantial disruption or disturbance of radiocommunications, which can attract a penalty of one year imprisonment—section 197.

Please note: this document is intended as a guide only and should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases.



More information

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