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Radiocommunications exemption arrangements for drone jamming devices – Consultation Paper

The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) is the peak industry organisation representing vehicle manufacturers and importers of passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and motorcycles in Australia. The FCAI welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the ACMA's Consultation Paper on Radiocommunications exemption arrangements for drone jamming devices.

The FCAI notes the operational need for the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to have access to drone jamming devices and the public benefit associated with operating a jamming device to deal with a drone that poses a risk to public safety.

The FCAI would like to draw ACMA's attention to the possibility of interference with vehicle to vehicle (V2V), vehicle to infrastructure (V2I) and vehicle to other road uses (V2X) communication systems operating under the Radiocommunications (Intelligent Transport Systems) Class Licence 2017.

The proposed determination is to allow the operation of drone jamming devices in the frequency band 5725-5850 MHz which is adjacent to the C-ITS 5.9 GHz band that operates from 5855 MHz. The Class Licence does not offer protection from adjacent bands, but it is possible that spurious emissions from drone jamming devices operating in the 5727-5850 MHz band could encroach into the ITS band and affect V2V, V2I and V2X safety systems. A key concern of FCAI members is that the jamming frequency 'ending' pattern (after its peak pulse) may overlap with the 'beginning' pattern of a C-ITS system.

To address this concern, the FCAI recommends that any operation of a drone jamming device while testing, training of operators or maintenance be undertaken in an environment away from traffic areas to minimise any impact on vehicle C-ITS systems. ACMA have recognised that the AFP can take practical steps to effectively manage these operations and to mitigate any potential incidental interference.

As the proposed determination includes “supply of a drone jamming device”, the FCAI recommends that any drone jamming device authorised for use under this exemption be assessed by the AFP for interference potential to vehicle C-ITS safety systems. The results of such an assessment could then influence a purchase decision and also operational use guidelines.

Vehicle C-ITS safety systems are still an emerging technology and FCAI members expect to supply vehicles with V2V, V2I and V2X systems in the near term. Therefore, the FCAI supports the ACMA proposal for the determination to expire after a two-year period and a subsequent review of the exemption and AFP operational requirements.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on T: (02) 6229 8214 or E: james.hurnall@fcai.com.au

Yours sincerely



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