

Submission regarding the ACMA discussion paper:  
**Possible use of the 5351.5–5366.5 kHz band by the amateur service**

Submitted by:

**Southside Amateur Radio Society (SARS)**, Logan City, Queensland

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**Introduction**

The Southside Amateur Radio Society is a small social club based just south of Brisbane. SARS is pleased to have this opportunity to make a submission regarding ACMA's options for the possible use of this band by the amateur service on a secondary basis.

**Value of the band to amateurs**

We feel that 60 meters would be a very useful addition to the amateur bands for VKs. Being intermediate between 40 and 80 meters, it offers good local propagation daytime and some opportunities for DX at night, even at the relatively modest power limits proposed.

**Our preferred option**

Having reviewed the options presented, the Society is in favour of Option 2, i.e., Australia-wide access to 5351.5–5365 kHz, and the exclusion of the top portion of the band (5365–5366.5 kHz). This option would place 510 of the current 526 frequency assignments outside the amateur band, greatly minimising the chance of interference (with only 16 assignments remaining within). The loss of 1.5 kHz of band would be a small price to pay to ensure that the communications of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (at 5366.5 kHz) would not be interfered with, and would allow Queensland-based amateurs the freedom to safely use this band without fear of causing such interference.

**Band segmentation**

The proposed truncated band would be only 13.5 kHz wide. Given the lack of interference problems in other shared bands, segmentation of this band (further reducing its size) would, to us, seem overly cautious. As observed in the consultation paper, sharing between the amateur service and other services occurs successfully in other HF bands. Should interference with any of the 16 current licensees in this band prove to be an issue, amateurs are likely to address it themselves. Of course, future additional regulation of the band by ACMA would also be an option.

**Channelisation**

Regarding the allocation of frequencies within this band, the club feels that channelised allocations would be too restrictive – if interference is present on a frequency (or if an amateur operator discovers that he/she is causing interference to a primary service licensee), we believe it would be more useful to have the full breath of the band in which to find an unused frequency, rather than only a handful of alternative fixed choices.

**Conclusion**

SARS urges ACMA to decide in favour of making the 60 meter band available to the amateur radio community as per Option 2 in their discussion paper. Amateurs are proven responsible users of the radio spectrum. When interference is an issue they are community minded and pro-active about solving the problem. We believe that amateur operators would successfully share this new band just as they did (and still do) 12, 17 and 30 meters when these bands were introduced earlier this century.

We thank the Authority for the opportunity to make this submission.

Submitted on behalf of the Southside Amateur Radio Society

Mike Amster (VK4WYM)

Acting Secretary