Submission – John Watson, 27/05/2020

For those stations in the Amateur Radio Service resident in the country and non-regional areas the potential of the 5 MHZ band for communication has a significant attraction. It’s characteristics as recorded by users of this part of the HF spectrum makes it a significant a resource that fills a gap between lower and higher frequencies neither of which are the best option for good communications over a full day and over the variations of the yearly propagation cycle.

At this location, a small rural village at some distance from a regional centre it would be welcome addition to the frequencies presently available to provide comfortable 24/7 contacts for personal, social but also if necessary, emergency communications.

Option 1 would be best for convenience though Option 2 would be acceptable as would less utility Option 3.

As for the proposed power restriction to 15 watts e.i.r.p., I don’t see this as a restrictive issued when this band is utilised as its propagation characteristics suggest. It may however be of concern if emergency communication was necessary at other times. It would of course be of concern if the band was to be used for the more usual ‘amateur hobby’ style DX communications. A matter for future consideration?

John Watson

59 Henry Street, CURLEWIS. 2381