

FYSO 2020–24: 6-month progress report

For the 2020–21 annual work program

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FYSO 2020–24: 6-month progress report

The five-year spectrum outlook (FYSO) 6-month progress report describes the status of activities outlined in the FYSO 2020–24, as of 31 December 2020. The publication of this information allows us to engage with consumers, industry and government to shape and apply the regulatory framework.

The tables below show progress in delivering our 2020–21 work program for the period 1 July to 31 December 2020. They also provide reasons for changes where we departed from our intended timeframe and prioritisation.

Significant updates during the period

On 17 December 2020, the [Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment \(Reform and Modernisation\) Act 2020](#) (the Modernisation Act) received Royal Assent. The provisions of the Modernisation Act will come into force on 17 June 2021, to give users of spectrum sufficient time to adjust to the new regulatory framework.

The ACMA is primarily responsible for developing and implementing the new spectrum management arrangements. Alongside this progress report, we have also released the [Update to FYSO 2020–21 annual work program in the FYSO 2020–24](#) (the FYSO update). The FYSO update reflects the key Modernisation Act implementation consultations to be completed this financial year. We will report on the status of these activities in the FYSO 2020–24 annual progress report, expected to be released in quarter 3 of 2021.

Table 1: Planning – major band-planning activities

Planning stage	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
Monitoring	600 MHz (617–698 MHz) 3.3 GHz (3300–3400 MHz) 4.5 GHz (4400–4500 MHz) 4.8 GHz (4800–4990 MHz) 13 GHz (12.75–13.25 GHz) 40 GHz (37–43.5 GHz) 46 GHz (45.5–47 GHz) 47 GHz (47.2–48.2 GHz) Bands being studied under WRC-23 agenda item 1.2 Bands being studied under WRC-23 agenda item 1.4	Continue to monitor domestic and international developments in these bands to identify usage trends	Ongoing
Initial investigation	‘Extended MSS L-band’ (1518–1525 MHz and 1668–1675 MHz)	Not scheduled for 2020–21 Likely simultaneous review of the extended MSS L-band and the 1.5 GHz bands	No change to projected timeline
	1880–1920 MHz	Q2 2021: discussion paper	No change to projected timeline
	2300–2302 MHz	Not scheduled for 2020–21	No change to projected timeline
	6 GHz (Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs))	Q4 2020: discussion paper	Moved to Q1 2021

Planning stage	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
Preliminary replanning	1.5 GHz (1427–1518 MHz)	Not scheduled for 2020–21 Likely simultaneous review with the extended MSS L-band and the 1.5 GHz bands	No change to projected timeline
	2 GHz (1980–2010 MHz and 2170–2200 MHz)	Q4 2020: options paper	Completed: options paper released in Q3 2020
		Q4 2020: planning decision paper	Completed: outcomes paper released in Q1 2021
	3700–4200 MHz	Q4 2020: options paper	Completed: options paper released in Q3 2020
		Q4 2020: planning outcomes paper	Completed: outcomes paper released in Q1 2021
	Implementation	850 MHz expansion band (809–824 MHz and 854–869 MHz)	Band is being cleared progressively; we continue to consider options for optimising its use Allocation timeframes are tied to those of the 900 MHz band
900 MHz (890–915 MHz and 935–960 MHz)		Allocation timeframes are tied to those of the 850 MHz expansion band	No change to projected timeline
1800 MHz (1710–1785 MHz and 1805–1880 MHz) in remote areas		Q4 2020: discussion paper	Moved to Q1–2 2021 due to re-prioritisation
3400–3575 MHz		Q3–4 2020: finalise restack of incumbent services	Completed

Planning stage	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
		Q4 2020 to Q1 2021: consultation on variation to 3.4 GHz technical framework to support urban excision and PMP apparatus licensing	Urban excise work delayed to allow for further engagement with the technical liaison group Consultation planned for Q2 2021 PMP apparatus licensing moved to Q3–4 2021 due to re-prioritisation
		Q4 2020 to Q2 2021: if the minister decides to designate spectrum, conduct activities to convert NBN Co's apparatus licences to spectrum licences	No change to projected timeline. The Minister made a designation notice on 10 December 2020.
	5.6 GHz (5600–5650 MHz)	Q4 2020: announce outcomes of public consultation	Completed
	26 GHz (24.25–27.5 GHz)	Q3 2020: consultation Q4 2020: finalise licensing arrangements for services in this band	Completed: consultation paper released Q3 2020
	28 GHz (27.5–29.5 GHz)	Q3 2020: consultation Q4 2020: finalise licensing arrangements for services in this band	Completed: consultation paper released Q3 2020

Table 2: Planning – optimising established planning frameworks

Planning area	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/ update
Broadcasting	Develop and consult on proposals for licence area plan (LAP) variations in Brisbane	Q4 2020: consult	Completed: consultation paper released Q4 2020
	Develop and consult on a proposal to vary the Deniliquin LAP	Q1 2021: consult	No change to projected timeline
	Develop and consult on proposals for variations in a number of licence areas in NSW ¹ to enable AM–FM conversions	Q3 2020: consult	Ongoing: Taree and Grafton completed in Q4 2020
	Consult on the digital radio channel plan (DRCP) for the Gold Coast, taking into account the completion of frequency allotment planning	Q3 2020: consult	Completed: consultation paper released Q3 2020
	Further consultation on whether variations to the DRCP for Brisbane are appropriate to improve digital coverage	Q3 2020: consult	Completed: consultation paper released Q3 2020
	Develop and consult on proposals for variations to the Remote Central and Eastern Australia Radio LAP	Q4 2020: consult	Completed: consultation paper released Q4 2020
	Consult on potential for replanning analog radio services in Perth, following the clearance of Band II television in Bunbury	Q4 2020: consult	Moved to Q1 2021 due to reprioritisation
	Satellite	Consider applications for test and demonstration purposes in the 2 GHz band	Ongoing
Manage filing and coordination of Australian satellite systems		Ongoing	Ongoing
Spectrum arrangements for 'small satellites'		Q4 2020: consult	Moved to Q1 2021 due to reprioritisation

¹ This may include a subset of the following areas: Grafton, Taree, Inverell, Moree, Gunnedah, Tamworth, Lismore, Mudgee, Young and Parkes. We are consulting with the licensees to determine indicative timelines and relative priorities. Proceeding with these variations depends on the relevant licensees making timely strategic business decisions on available implementation options.

Planning area	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/ update
Low interference potential devices (LIPD)	Monitor developments, including updates on low duty cycle 900 MHz changes and 26 GHz (as per planning decisions)	Ongoing to Q3 2020: update consultation	Completed
Intelligent transport systems	Monitor the developments in C-ITS. Review ITS Class Licence to accommodate V2X technology and consider channelisation arrangements	Q2 2021	No change to projected timeline
Amateur service in the frequency band 5351.5–5366.5 kHz	Responses to consultation are being reviewed, with a final decision and way forward being determined	Decision in Q4 2020	Completed
Spectrum planning, assignment and coordination requirements	Ongoing review of the spectrum planning technical framework to ensure its currency and consistency with current technologies and operational practices	Ongoing Q4 2020: consult on draft updated frequency coordination review work	Moved to Q2 2021 due to competing priorities
Spectrum licence technical frameworks	Ongoing program of review of technical frameworks below 4 GHz	1800 MHz band – Q4 2020: consultation on variation	Moved to allow for further engagement with the technical liaison group Consultation planned for Q2 2021
		2.3 GHz band – Q4 2020: consultation on variation	Completed: consultation paper released Q4 2020
		Other bands: ongoing	Ongoing
Spectrum-sharing approaches	Ongoing consideration of new approaches to spectrum sharing	Ongoing – will consider proposals as they are submitted	Ongoing

Table 3: Forward allocation work plan

Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
26 and 28 GHz bands	Q3 2020: consult on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > coordination and licensing arrangements for new fixed satellite service (FSS) gateway earth stations in the range 27–29.5 GHz and new licensing arrangements for FSS earth stations in the 29.5–30.0 GHz range > the technical framework, taxation and allocation arrangements for apparatus licences in the 26 and 28 GHz bands 	Completed: consultation paper released Q3 2020; instruments and administrative arrangements completed Q4 2020
	Q4 2020: some apparatus licences in 26 GHz and in all of 28 GHz become available for issue	Completed
	Q4 2020: finalise the technical and allocation instruments for the allocation of spectrum licences Advertise the auction and invite applications	Completed: Applicant information package (AIP) published, and applications opened Q4 2020
	Q1–2 2021 (noting Easter): auction spectrum licences	No change to projected timeline
850/900 MHz	Q3 2020: review submissions to the consultation on draft reallocation recommendation	Completed
	Q1–2 2021: if the minister decides to reallocate spectrum, draft and consult on the allocation instruments	No change to projected timeline
3400–3575 MHz	Q3–4 2020: finalise restack of incumbent services	Completed
	Q4 2020 to Q2 2021: if the minister decides to designate spectrum, conduct activities to convert NBN Co’s apparatus licences to spectrum licences	No change to projected timeline. The Minister made a designation notice on 10 December 2020.

Table 4: Licensing and licensing systems

Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
Trial of mobile phone jammers at Goulburn Correctional Complex	Ongoing: Corrective Services NSW commenced a 2-year trial on 13 December 2019 under the exemption determination	Ongoing
400 MHz band	2020–21: finalising the 400 MHz implementation project	Ongoing
Review of prohibition declarations and exemption determinations	Q1 2021: consultation on next steps	No change to projected timeline
RNSS repeater trials	2020–21: continue to work with stakeholders to develop long-term licensing solution	Ongoing
Review of non-assigned amateur and outpost licensing arrangements with a view to reform	Q4 2020: consult	Consultation paper released Q1 2021
Review of the accredited persons scheme	Q4 2020: consult with accredited persons on the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme	Moved to Q1 2021 to allow consolidated consultation with the draft Accreditation Rules (see the FYSO update)
	Q1: 2021: where appropriate, consultation on operational and/or regulatory changes to the scheme	No change to projected timeline – consolidated with consultation about the draft Accreditation Rules (see the FYSO update)

Table 5: Pricing

Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
Pricing review implementation	Q4 2020: publish response to submissions paper. This paper will outline the work program to implement the Spectrum Pricing Review over 2020 and 2021	Completed: response paper released Q4 2020 Ongoing implementation of the work program over 2021
Commercial broadcasting tax arrangements	Ongoing assessment of taxes throughout 2020–21	Ongoing
Review of Commercial Broadcasting (Tax) Act 2017	Q4 2020: release consultation paper	Completed: consultation paper released Q4 2020
	Q1 2021: report to the minister	No change to projected timeline
Ongoing maintenance of the current apparatus licence tax regime for matters like adjusting for inflation	2020–21	Ongoing Consultation paper about inflation changes released Q4 2020. The updated taxes commence 5 April 2021.
Implement new taxation arrangements to allow industry to contribute to EME research funding	Q3 2020: implementation, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > consultation on changes to spectrum licence taxes > making of amendments 	Completed: consultation paper released Q3 2020 Completed: amendments to tax determinations made in Q3 2020
Spectrum licence tax	Q2–3 2021: consult on new spectrum licence taxes for the 26 GHz band and other related changes	No change to projected timeline
	Q3 2021: Make new spectrum licence tax arrangements	No change to projected timeline

Table 6: Compliance and enforcement

Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
5G compliance program to check carrier's compliance with EME standards under their licence conditions and obligations under the Mobile Base Station Deployment Code	2020–21	Ongoing
Compliance activities to manage the risk of interference in 2 key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > unauthorised use of mobile phone repeaters > non-compliant activity in the construction/resources industry 	2020–21	Ongoing

Table 7: International engagement

Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress/update
ITU-R Study Group 4 block meetings	Q4 2020 (21 October to 6 November 2020)	Completed
ITU-R Study Group 5 block meetings	Q3 2020 (7–31 July) Q4 2020 (4–24 November 2020 includes working party 5D)	Completed
ITU-R Working party 5D meetings	Q2–3 2020 (23 June to 9 July) Q4 2020 (5–16 October and 17–19 November)	Completed
First meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group (Asia-Pacific) for WRC-23 (APG23-1)	Q3 2020 (24–25 September)	Completed