



Mr. Nicholas Brody
Acting Manager
Spectrum Licencing Policy
ACMA

By email

Dear Nic,

AMATEUR SECTOR COORDINATION

As we have discussed for some time, the current arrangements for amateur sector coordination are not working well. The inability of the WIA to cooperate with RASA is compromising the sector's relationship with ACMA.

The current situation is akin to Telstra simply denying the existence of Optus/Vodafone and refusing to discuss sector issues with them.

This impasse is delaying resolution of issues such as FL callsigns and repeater frequency coordination. General sector progress on other issues such as the 5 MHz band and 1 kW output power have also been impeded by the current divided approach.

This situation is a consequence of history. This is the first time in over a century that the AR sector has not been subject to a monopoly in representation to the regulator.

Given the changes in the AR sector, in RASA's view it is now appropriate to adopt the same consultation methodology used in the other sectors administered by ACMA.

That is, a cross-sector committee.

It is suggested that RASA and the WIA form the committee, each with two members (the Presidents and one other from each organisation). Given the role of AMC, they should also have a representative on the committee.

The concept of a cross-sector committee was discussed between myself and Greg Kelly during our recent consultations over the FL survey. We both supported the idea.

However, selection of a politically impartial chair would be very problematic in the current environment. It is therefore suggested that the committee Terms of Reference (TOR) be written such that the committee is effectively jointly run by both Presidents, and their remit is to arrive at a unified view to put to ACMA.

It is further suggested that:

- the committee be *the* sector consultation mechanism - ACMA not to accept a divided view from the committee, nor individual submissions/lobbying from the WIA or RASA;
- any sector public consultation on regulatory issues be done via the committee; and
- all recommendations from the committee to ACMA must be signed by both Presidents.

As a means of breaking any deadlocks, it is suggested that if either sector body refuses to attend the committee on two occasions within a defined period, the TORs state that the other body will constitute the committee, and their views are the ones put to ACMA.

A properly convened cross-sector committee is the professional and transparent way for the sector to prepare, debate and agree on proposals and papers for submission to ACMA. Radio Amateurs from around Australia will know that an objective, bipartisan mechanism is in place to represent their views.

The proposed committee also removes ACMA from the current political/lobbying process, as you would be presented with a unified sector view.

If you agree with the concept in principle, I will draft committee TORs for discussion between ourselves and the WIA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.C. Dunstan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

G.C. Dunstan
President

05 December 2019