

Sean McQueen

From: Nicholas Brody
Sent: Thursday, 18 June 2020 9:54 AM
To: Mary Stavropoulos; Sean McQueen; Matthew Bye
Subject: RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

I believe we can make changes to the deed by agreement between Martin Crees-Morris and Patrick E

Nicholas Brody
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I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live. I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

From: Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 June 2020 9:51 AM
To: Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>; Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>; Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Yes I think that would be fine. With state/identifier issue, I assume we would not need to consult on it. As long as call signs are issued in accordance with the ITU template, changes can be made. We should communicate changes to the amateur community, consistent with our new comms strategy to manage information they get.

From: Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 June 2020 9:44 AM
To: Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>; Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>; Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

My opinion is we should green light the implementation of these changes now. The only thing that has not already been subject to extensive consultation and promotion is the state/territory signifier issue. While we had this in the deed, we do not and would not ever enforce it. As such, it's just a behavioural thing, and if the amateurs value it they can keep doing it if they want.

We could come up with a standard set of words to include in our responses to queries on the issue.

NB

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From: Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 June 2020 9:36 AM
To: Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>; Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>; Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

I'm a little bit unsure about holding off implementing these changes [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The change in call sign structure goes a bit further than just facilitating foundation access to digital modes, but that was its main objective, and WIA and RASA have both broken then news about this in their own ways. RASA has also been very vocal about our disposition on not requiring licensees to get new call signs when moving states.

Do we want to have a quick phone call to discuss?

From: Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2020 4:11 PM
To: Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>; Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>; Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>; Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Patrick

Martin's proposal will simplify the call sign arrangements, which is consistent with our approach to simplify amateur arrangements more broadly. I believe there would be considerable amateur interest in any changes that remove the distinction between amateurs, whether it's a location identifier for a call sign or privileges associated with their qualification level. While the call sign template changes is not a matter that is directly under our regulatory remit, we will probably receive complaints from amateurs who are not aligned with WIA or RASA.

At the very least, we have the option of updating amateurs through our new communications strategy, website, ebulletin etc.

[REDACTED]

Regards,
Mary

From: Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2020 1:01 PM

To: Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>; Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>

Cc: Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>; Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>; Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>

Subject: RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Patrick,

I have no problem with Martin's proposals, and indeed I consider them in line with our general policy disposition on amateur issues outside of our regulatory remit.

I'm not sure I think further amateur consultation is warranted on this matter, noting that both WIA and RASA have undertaken their own consultation on the foundation callsign matter. Happy to discuss further though if you disagree.

Cheers,

Nicholas Brody

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From: Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2020 9:29 AM

To: Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>; Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>

Cc: Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>; Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>

Subject: FW: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi people,

Any initial thoughts on Martin's email proposal? In particular, do we see the risk of objection from other parts of the amateur community? It might be worth considering how we approach the request in light of our recent public-facing communication. For example, should we consult more widely with the amateur community? I'm open to any views on the matter.

Regards,

Patrick

From: Martin Crees-Morris [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2020 8:58 AM

To: Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE

Dear Patrick,

REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE

Having consulted with our expert advisers I write with reference to the correspondence from Nic Brody regarding proposed changes to the amateur callsign template.

As we understand it, you are proposing to remove the connection between callsign suffix and licence class for all three-letter suffix callsigns. That is, any grade of licence may have any three-letter suffix. Four letter suffix Fxxx callsigns, currently used for Foundation class amateurs, will no longer be issued.

Two letter suffixes will remain exclusive to Advanced class amateurs.

We also understand that any amateur permanently moving to a new State/Territory is no longer required to change their callsign to reflect their new location. That is, if a Sydney VK2 (NSW) station moves to Adelaide (VK5 - SA), they can retain their VK2 callsign.

This has effectively removed the connection between location and numeric prefix – of course, it has also reduced AMC revenue, as amateurs will not apply for a new callsign when moving interstate.

A new callsign template

Changing the callsign structure will impose extra administrative overhead on our operation. Accordingly, we wish to take the opportunity to streamline the callsign template to provide maximum flexibility for users, ourselves and ACMA.

To the end, we propose the following:

Group VK1-8 together

The decision to remove the numeric prefix connection to location to be reflected in the new proposed template, with the exception of VK0 (Antarctica) and VK9 (external territories).

Both VK0 and 9 are known as “separate countries” in amateur radio parlance for award purposes. The mainland and Tasmania (VK1-8) can be grouped together – i.e. any location on the mainland and Tasmania may use any numeric prefix.

It is proposed that VK0 and 9 will still require an address to match the callsign.

Free up the template

Any class of licence is now eligible for any three letter callsign. It is logical to extend this philosophy to the entire template – that is, any three-letter block is available to any licence class, apart from repeaters and beacons, which will retain the Rxx series.

Grouping 1-8 together, along with allowing any three-letter prefix for any licence grade will simplify processes considerably.

No new Fxxx callsigns will be issued, however, it is proposed that holders of existing callsigns with Fxxx suffixes may retain their callsigns.

Free up 2 x 1 callsigns

The other area of simplification is in the composition of 2 x 1 callsigns. The allocation of 2 x 1 callsigns for contest stations was discussed and approved some time ago, however we have not progressed this because of administrative overhead.

The criteria for allocation of these callsigns was quite difficult, as it was always assumed that they were a limited resource (i.e. VKnA only) and the allocation process had to be equitable. Of course, this difficulty translated to complex administrative processing for AMC staff.

It is proposed to extend the 2 x 1 template by expanding it to the VJ, VK and VL prefixes, with the only criteria being that the callsigns be available to advanced stations, for use in contests and be limited to one callsign per licensee (club or individual).

The advantages of this are:

- the pool of available 2 x 1 callsigns is greatly increased, thereby allowing the callsigns to be used by many more amateurs, including newcomers (via a club station); and
- no extra complexity or processing for AMC staff – the callsign is treated like a 2 letter suffix callsign.

No changes are proposed to special event callsigns, or the AX prefix allocation rules.

The proposed templates (from Appendix 2 of the deed) are in the annexures attached below

Yours sincerely,

Martin Crees-Morris

ANNEX A – PROPOSED CALLSIGN TEMPLATES

(refer Appendix ii of the deed)

Table 1 - Amateur callsign construction

Prefix	Suffix
*VJ\$,VK\$,*VL\$ where \$ is the State/Territory Indicator. This is a number from 0-9 indicating the location in which the station is operating: 0 = Antarctica 1- 8 = ACT, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory 9 = Australian External Territories	Suffix of one, two or three letters. See Table 2 for template details.

Note:

*See table 2 for use of these prefixes

Table 2 - Callsign templates allocated to the amateur licensing options

Licence Option	Template
Advanced	VK\$aa, *VJ\$a, *VK\$a, *VL\$a
Advanced Standard Foundation	VK\$aaa-VK\$zzz
Repeater Beacon	VK\$Raa-VK\$Rzz

Note:

*These callsigns are to be used for contest operation only and are limited to one per licensee (individual or club).

Martin Crees-Morris
Business Development – Engineering
Lecturer - MLM
Manager – OMC + Amateur Radio





CRICOS 00586B

University of Tasmania Electronic Communications Policy (December, 2014).

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