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**From:** Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 March 2020 10:13 AM  
**To:** Linda Caruso <[Linda.Caruso@acma.gov.au](mailto:Linda.Caruso@acma.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Allan Major <[Allan.Major@acma.gov.au](mailto:Allan.Major@acma.gov.au)>; Peter Wardle <[Peter.Wardle@acma.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Wardle@acma.gov.au)>; Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>; Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Verification Required [ FW: IMPORTANT NEWS - FL CALLSIGNS ] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Linda,

This RASA notice is about a call sign issue we have been progressing since the Amateur LCD changes were made last year. One of the changes we made was allowing foundation licensees to use 'digital modes', which necessitated them obtaining a '3 letter call sign' rather than their usual '4 letter call sign'. In the consultation paper, we also indicated that we considered the management of changes to call sign arrangements was well suited to sector self-management.

There was a complex and disharmonious process put in place by both RASA and the WIA to engage amateur licensee opinions, and I won't bother you with the detail. However, after having been presented with the outcome of two surveys, we determined that our preferred approach was to have a foundation 3 letter call sign with no 'licence class' identifiers (that is, the call sign does not indicate whether a licensee holds advanced, standard or foundation qualifications). This was the WIA's preferred solution.

I communicated this preference to both RASA and the WIA yesterday (see attached), and discussed the issue with Glenn from RASA. Subject to the AMC implementing the approach, I now consider the issue closed.

I will respond to [REDACTED] in due time.

Regards,

**Nicholas Brody**  
Manager  
Spectrum Licensing Policy

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communicating | facilitating | regulating

*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.*

On 31 Mar 2020, at 8:32 am, Allan Major <[Allan.Major@acma.gov.au](mailto:Allan.Major@acma.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Patrick,

Is this the callsign issue you mentioned recently where you'd had some discussion with Mr Dunstan, or is it something Nic Brody's team has been managing?

Regards

**Allan Major**

Executive Manager  
Licensing & Infrastructure Safeguards Branch  
Communications Infrastructure Division

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**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

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**From:** Linda Caruso <[Linda.Caruso@acma.gov.au](mailto:Linda.Caruso@acma.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 March 2020 7:26 AM

**To:** Allan Major <[Allan.Major@acma.gov.au](mailto:Allan.Major@acma.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: Verification Required [ FW: IMPORTANT NEWS - FL CALLSIGNS ] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Importance:** High

Hi Allan

Can you advise on what RASA is representing here. It appears pre-emptive and we would make our own announcements. I am prepared to write to RASA if required or make public clarifying statements. For advice please

Regards

**Linda Caruso**

General Manager  
Communications Infrastructure Division

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**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, 30 March 2020 9:14 PM

**To:** Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Linda Caruso <[Linda.Caruso@acma.gov.au](mailto:Linda.Caruso@acma.gov.au)>; [Alan.Major@acma.gov.au](mailto:Alan.Major@acma.gov.au)

**Subject:** Verification Required [ FW: IMPORTANT NEWS - FL CALLSIGNS ]

**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** RASA <[info@vkradioamateurs.org](mailto:info@vkradioamateurs.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 March 2020 5:51 PM  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT NEWS - FL CALLSIGNS



## IMPORTANT NEWS



### [ACMA decides on callsign suffix issue & Foundation Licence Callsigns](#)

The ACMA has today decided to remove the connection between callsign suffix and licence class for all three letter callsigns.

ACMA considered the inability of FLs to use the AX prefix to be a major factor in their selection of the option, along with a desire to break the deadlock between conflicting survey results.

RASA will abide by the ACMA decision: the issue needed to be resolved.

ACMA also strongly made the point that conflicting representations by the WIA and RASA are not an effective way for representatives of the amateur community to engage with the ACMA.

RASA supports this view. Separate submissions by RASA and the WIA are wasteful of resources and increase ACMA's workload unnecessarily. When all is said and done, the current situation serves only to disadvantage the end user...

The inability of the sector bodies to cooperate has effectively wasted five months. Five months in which FLs could have fully utilised their new privileges.

RASA has proposed the formation of a cross sector committee with the WIA to provide a coordinated input to the ACMA.

It is expected that the new callsign suffix arrangements will be implemented by AMC in the next few weeks, although this could be delayed by current events.

We'll keep you posted on these developments as ACMA and AMC move to implement.

For those of you who are new to AR spectrum management, we have a number of regulatory background docs on our website:

<http://vkradioamateurs.org/regulatory-issues/>

Click on Regulatory Issues and select an article from the list.

## RASA APPLIES FOR AX CALLSIGNS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

AX for Covid lockdown.

Our colleagues across the Tasman have successfully applied to their regulator to use their special event prefix ZM for the duration of the Covid-19 lockdown.

This is a great idea, as it stimulates DX activity from home stations.

We have applied to ACMA to use AX in the same manner. We have copied the WIA in on the application, and asked that they support it...

### Why Join RASA?

RASA is focussed solely on improving our hobby. We conduct evidence based research to lobby the Regulator for better privileges. We provide information to help Amateurs better understand the regulatory environment and we listen to your views. We promote new and emerging technologies and encourage Amateurs to become more active.

We also address issues that impact the majority of amateurs in Australia. Our major project in 2019 was a free online resource to help amateurs deal with QRM. Head over to [QRM guru](#) to see more.

In 2020 we will be focusing on helping newcomers to the hobby.

Help us by joining today and/or making a donation. It's only \$8 per year.

This article is an update on what we have achieved so far, what we are working on and what we hope to achieve in the future:

<http://vkradioamateurs.org/why-join-rasa/>

RASA  
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Australia

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