

To: The Manager  
Spectrum Licensing Policy Section  
Australian Communications and Media Authority  
PO Box 13112  
Law Courts, Melbourne VIC 8010

**Re: Review of non-assigned amateur and outpost regulatory arrangements –  
consultation 01/2021**

Dear Spectrum Licensing Policy Section Manager

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Review of Non-assigned Amateur and  
Outpost Regulatory Arrangements – Consultation 01/2021.

As a professional, practising electronics engineer, Amateur Radio gave me the opportunity  
to further develop my passion and love for radio and all things electronic. When licensed as  
a teenager I commenced building my own receiving and transmitting equipment. I then  
gained professional engineering qualifications and have worked both abroad and in  
Australia. Amateur radio has stood me in good stead, and I have been fortunate to be able to  
work professionally on the design of communications, radar, and electronic warfare systems  
from airborne to underwater applications. I do understand the problems of spectrum  
management. I feel for ACMA in this period of significant change to the way the spectrum  
needs to be managed both locally and globally. Particularly in the era of “cost reduction”.

A healthy Amateur radio service is essential to fire the imaginations of young people.  
Through their studies and endeavours they in turn provide for Australia's future capabilities.  
The return on investment is incalculable.  
I would prefer to keep the service more or less as it is.

Option A is my preferred option, but I do understand Option A is not viable in the current  
political climate.

Options B and C as they currently stand are not viable options.

I do fundamentally agree with the WIA approach as they have outlined in their submission.

Of particular concern to me is there should still be a national and publicly available register  
recording the details of every amateur. Without this there may be a proliferation of  
unlicensed operation. If such a register cannot be done through ACMA then it could be  
through a third party organisation.

Any third party organisation involved in the administration of amateur radio should also be  
able to escalate any problems back to ACMA.

The treatment of interference is also a serious issue, both caused by and experienced by  
radio amateurs. Unauthorised incursions into amateur bands, particularly those designated  
as designated as a primary service are troubling.  
When interference problems cannot be resolved at a low level there should be the means to  
be able to escalate the problem to ACMA.

I have concerns that the ACMA's stated purpose of "preserving the current operational utility for licensees" has not been reflected into the proposed Class Licence and that amateur radio operators will be disadvantaged in the future by moving to the Class Licence as currently proposed. I have read the ACMA proposed changes and the WIA's response to the ACMA Review Consultation. I support the responses and recommendations presented by the WIA.

Yours sincerely

Fergus McCowan VK1FM  
9 Archer Street  
Dickson, ACT, 2602  
fergmcc@westnet.com.au  
1 April 2021.