

24 Mar 2021

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

Re: Response to the proposed changes to Amateur licensing arrangements

Non-assigned amateur stations February 2021. The ACMA invited comments on the issues set out in the discussion paper "Proposed Changes to Amateur Licensing arrangements"

Having considered the detail you have supplied in your consultation paper, and understanding the obligations arising from the 2020 amendment to the Radio Communications Act 1992, I would be pleased if you would consider my preference and observations in this regard.

My preference for a system of Licensing at this time is for Option B.

I am presently licensed as VK5FAS and in Japan as JA7FAS. I have held an advanced class license for approximately 50 years. I am a frequent traveler to Australia, and have carefully considered the views put forward by the WIA as the peak body, and the well informed observations of my peers.

Understanding the difficulty you will have assessing a large number of responses that will contain much detail, diversity of opinions and variations between facts and emotions being expressed; I would like to summarize my preference for Option B.

Regulatory change to reduce costs and streamline management and continuous improvement is necessary; however we should not lose sight of the imperative to preserve Amateur Radio as a valued 'Service' and National asset.

There is a great accumulation of apparatus equipment, operator knowledge, skills and expertise and sense of community in the fraternity both domestically and internationally. The value of the service must be acknowledged for the contributions it has made and continues to make in research and development, STEM training for youth and mature age students, Emergency Services and Strategic communications support, community and international good will. This should not be compromised.

Option B appears to afford the best balance for achieving these goals. Moving from an 'apparatus' to 'class' licensing structure seems likely to satisfy the objectives and interests of both the Regulator and the Service, and continue to provide an appropriately regulated environment where individual operators continue to hold a Government issued license that may be recognized internationally. It is acknowledged that a class license system for Amateur Radio operates in many international jurisdictions.

It is expected that ACMA will seek to make variations to the Regulations subsequent to moving to Option 'B' with regard to spectrum and EME management, administration of licenses and equipment approvals. This nomination for Option 'B' is given in the spirit of cooperation and good will and in the expectation that ACMA will not degrade the value or quality of the Amateur Radio Service as part of changes made to achieve efficiency gains or modernization of the way it does business.

Yours sincerely,

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M. OIKAWA