

Draft spectrum reallocation recommendation for the 26 GHz band

Summary

The ACMA continues to work towards timely release of spectrum to support the deployment of 5G services in Australia.

In April 2019, the ACMA released the *Future use of the 26 GHz band—Planning decisions and preliminary views* paper, which:

- Identified the frequency range 25.1–27.5 GHz (the 26 GHz band) for spectrum licensing in 34 specified cities and regional centres.
- Identified a range of apparatus and class licensing measures to facilitate a broad range of wireless broadband use cases in the 26 GHz band.

Accordingly, the ACMA intends to recommend that the minister responsible for the communications portfolio (the minister) make a reallocation declaration stating that the 26 GHz band should be re-allocated by issuing spectrum licences in these 34 defined areas.

In accordance with the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (the Act), the minister must not make a spectrum reallocation declaration unless the ACMA has made a recommendation to do so. Before it makes its recommendation, the ACMA must prepare a written notice setting out the terms of the draft recommendation and publish a copy of the notice on its website. The ACMA must also give each potentially affected apparatus licensee a copy of the notice and invite them to provide written comments on the draft recommendation. The ACMA must have regard to any comments from potentially affected licensees and may have regard to other submissions when preparing its final recommendation to the minister. With this in mind, the ACMA has prepared the draft spectrum reallocation recommendation consultation paper for the 26 GHz band (available from the Downloads table above).

The ACMA's notice under section 153G of the Act—*Proposed re-allocation of the 26 GHz frequency band* (also available from the Downloads table above) sets out the terms of the draft recommendation:

Element of draft recommendation	The ACMA's proposed recommendation
Licence type	Spectrum licences
Parts of the spectrum	25.1–27.5 GHz in 34 specified cities and regional centres
Reallocation period	Two-and-a-half years
Reallocation deadline	12 months before the end of the reallocation period

Should the minister accept the ACMA's recommendation to make the proposed spectrum reallocation declaration, the ACMA intends to allocate the spectrum licences through an auction

process. The consultation paper therefore seeks comment from stakeholders on matters relevant to a spectrum auction, including the auction format to be used and the way the spectrum should be configured for allocation.

Following consideration of submissions, the ACMA will finalise the recommendation for formal submission to, and consideration by, the minister.

As the government is currently in a caretaker period, it is noted that the spectrum management policies of an incoming government may have implications for future spectrum planning arrangements.