

Allocation of 3.4/3.7 GHz bands spectrum

Notice under subsection 26(1) of the Radiocommunications (Spectrum Licence Allocation—3.4/3.7 GHz Bands) Determination 2023

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) gives notice under subsection 26(1) of the [Radiocommunications \(Spectrum Licence Allocation—3.4/3.7 GHz Bands\) Determination 2023](#) (the allocation determination) of the upcoming allocation of spectrum licences in parts of the spectrum specified below (the 3.4/3.7 GHz bands). The allocation of these licences will occur by 2 consecutive auctions – the 3.7 GHz auction and the 3.4 GHz auction – with leftover lots to be directly allocated to eligible applicants.

Key dates

Key dates for parties interested in applying to participate in the allocation of spectrum licences in the 3.4/3.7 GHz bands (3.4/3.7 GHz bands allocation process) are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Key dates for the 3.4/3.7 GHz bands allocation process

Event	Date
<p>Applications open</p> <p>The ACMA advertises the 3.4/3.7 GHz bands allocation process, publishes the applicant information package, and applications open.</p>	5 July 2023
<p>Application deadline</p> <p>By this date and time, any person wishing to be an applicant will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > give a completed application form (Form 1, or by completing the webform on the ACMA auction application portal) > give a completed deed of acknowledgement (Form 2) > give a completed deed of confidentiality (Form 3) > give a completed associates form (Form 4 or Form 5) > pay the application fee to the ACMA on behalf of the Commonwealth. 	2 pm, 31 July 2023
<p>Eligibility deadline</p> <p>By the eligibility deadline, applicants will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > give a completed eligibility nomination form (Form 9). > give a deed of financial security (Form 8) or make an eligibility payment, to the ACMA on behalf of the Commonwealth, or a combination of both. <p>Applicants are registered as bidders after the eligibility deadline. The eligibility nomination for is used to apply for direct allocation of leftover lots. Any leftover</p>	2 pm, 12 September 2023

Event	Date
lots applied for by an eligible recipient are allocated to that person immediately after the eligibility deadline.	
Estimated 3.7 GHz auction commencement	Late October 2023
3.4 GHz auction pre-bidding round of the primary stage commences	Within the 48 hours before the first clock round of the primary stage of the 3.4 GHz auction
3.4 GHz auction first clock round of the primary stage commences	At least 5 working days after the completion of the assignment stage of the 3.7 GHz auction

Parts of the spectrum to be allocated

As outlined at Schedules 1 and 2 to the [Radiocommunications Spectrum Marketing Plan \(3.4/3.7 GHz Bands\) 2023](#) (marketing plan), the ACMA has configured most of the spectrum that will be available at auction into products; each product is made up of a number of lots. The products available in the 3.7 GHz auction are shown in Table 2 and the products available in the 3.4 GHz auction are shown in Table 3.

The marketing plan provides maps and an area description of the geographic areas to be spectrum licensed, which form the regions for each lot. The auction guide provides details on starting prices and lot ratings for each product.

Table 2: Products available in the 3.7 GHz auction

	Product ID	Product name	Frequency range	Region	No. of lots
1	ADEL03	Adelaide Upper	3700 MHz to 3800 MHz	Adelaide	20
2	BRIS03	Brisbane Upper	3700 MHz to 3800 MHz	Brisbane	20
3	CANB03	Canberra Upper	3700 MHz to 3800 MHz	Canberra	20
4	MELB03	Melbourne Upper	3700 MHz to 3800 MHz	Melbourne	20
5	PERT03	Perth Upper	3700 MHz to 3800 MHz	Perth	20
6	SYDN03	Sydney Upper	3700 MHz to 3800 MHz	Sydney	20

Product ID	Product name	Frequency range	Region	No. of lots	
7	HOBA03	Hobart Upper	3750 MHz to 3800 MHz	Hobart	10
8	CQLD03	Rural Central QLD Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural Central QLD 3700–3750	10
9	NNSQ03	Rural North NSW / South QLD Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural North NSW / South QLD 3700–3750	10
10	NQLD03	Rural North QLD Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural North QLD 3700–3750	10
11	SOAU03	Rural SA Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural SA 3700–3750	10
12	SWNS03	Rural South / West NSW Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural South / West NSW 3700–3750	10
13	TASM03	Rural TAS Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural TAS 3700–3750	10
14	VICT03	Rural VIC Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural VIC 3700–3750	10
15	WEAU03	Rural WA Upper	3700 MHz to 3750 MHz	Rural WA 3700–3750	10
16	RNSW03	Regional NSW Upper	3750 MHz to 3800 MHz	Regional NSW 3750–3800	10
17	RQLD03	Regional QLD Upper	3750 MHz to 3800 MHz	Regional QLD 3750–3800	10
18	RSAU03	Regional SA Upper	3750 MHz to 3800 MHz	Regional SA 3750–3800	10
19	RVIC03	Regional VIC Upper	3750 MHz to 3800 MHz	Regional VIC 3750–3800	10
20	RWAU03	Regional WA Upper	3750 MHz to 3800 MHz	Regional WA	10

Table 3: Products available in the 3.4 GHz auction

	Product ID	Product name	Frequency range	Region	No. of lots
1	ALBU01	Albury Lower	3400 MHz to 3425 MHz	Albury	5
2	CAIR01	Cairns Lower	3400 MHz to 3425 MHz	Cairns	5
3	HOBA01	Hobart Lower	3400 MHz to 3425 MHz	Hobart	5
4	LAUN01	Launceston Lower	3400 MHz to 3425 MHz	Launceston	5
5	ROCK01	Rockhampton Lower	3400 MHz to 3425 MHz	Rockhampton	5
6	TOWN01	Townsville Lower	3400 MHz to 3425 MHz	Townsville	5
7	ALBU02	Albury Middle	3495 MHz to 3540 MHz	Albury	9
8	CAIR02	Cairns Middle	3495 MHz to 3540 MHz	Cairns	9
9	HOBA02	Hobart Middle	3495 MHz to 3540 MHz	Hobart	9
10	LAUN02	Launceston Middle	3495 MHz to 3540 MHz	Launceston	9
11	ROCK02	Rockhampton Middle	3495 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rockhampton	9
12	TOWN02	Townsville Middle	3495 MHz to 3540 MHz	Townsville	9
13	CQLD01	Rural Central QLD Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural Central QLD	8
14	NNSQ01	Rural North NSW / South QLD Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural North NSW / South QLD	8
15	NQLD01	Rural North QLD Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural North QLD	8
16	SOAU01	Rural SA Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural SA	8
17	SWNS01	Rural South / West NSW Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural South / West NSW	8
18	TASM01	Rural TAS Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural TAS	8

	Product ID	Product name	Frequency range	Region	No. of lots
19	VICT01	Rural VIC Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural VIC	8
20	WEAU01	Rural WA Lower	3400 MHz to 3440 MHz	Rural WA	8
21	CQLD02	Rural Central QLD Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural Central QLD	13
22	NNSQ02	Rural North NSW / South QLD Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural North NSW / South QLD	13
23	NQLD02	Rural North QLD Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural North QLD	13
24	SOAU02	Rural SA Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural SA	13
25	SWNS02	Rural South / West NSW Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural South / West NSW	13
26	TASM02	Rural TAS Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural TAS	13
27	VICT02	Rural VIC Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural VIC	13
28	WEAU02	Rural WA Middle	3475 MHz to 3540 MHz	Rural WA	13
29	RNSW02	Regional NSW Middle	3475 MHz to 3510 MHz	Regional NSW	7
30	RQLD02	Regional QLD Middle	3475 MHz to 3510 MHz	Regional QLD	7
31	RSAU02	Regional SA Middle	3475 MHz to 3510 MHz	Regional SA	7
32	RVIC02	Regional VIC Middle	3475 MHz to 3510 MHz	Regional VIC	7
33	RWAU02	Regional WA Middle	3475 MHz to 3510 MHz	Regional WA	7
34	RWAC02	Regional WA Central Middle	3510 MHz to 3575 MHz	Regional WA Central	13

Leftover lots

Leftover lots are 2.5 MHz parcels of frequency-specific spectrum that are available in some geographic areas in the 3.4 GHz band. Leftover lots may be directly allocated to an eligible recipient, being the adjacent licensee identified in Schedule 3 to the marketing plan (and shown in Table 4 below), or a related body corporate of the adjacent licensee.

Table 4: Leftover lots available for direct allocation

	Lot name	Frequency range	Region	Adjacent product	Adjacent licensee
1	Albury 1	3492.5 MHz to 3495 MHz	Albury	Albury Middle	NBN Co Limited (ACN 136 533 741) (NBN Co)
2	Albury 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Albury	Albury Middle	Telstra Limited (ACN 086 174 781) (Telstra)
3	Cairns 1	3492.5 MHz to 3495 MHz	Cairns	Cairns Middle	NBN Co
4	Cairns 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Cairns	Cairns Middle	Telstra
5	Hobart 1	3492.5 MHz to 3495 MHz	Hobart	Hobart Middle	NBN Co
6	Hobart 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Hobart	Hobart Middle	Telstra
7	Launceston 1	3492.5 MHz to 3495 MHz	Launceston	Launceston Middle	NBN Co
8	Launceston 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Launceston	Launceston Middle	Telstra
9	Rockhampton 1	3492.5 MHz to 3495 MHz	Rockhampton	Rockhampton Middle	NBN Co
10	Rockhampton 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rockhampton	Rockhampton Middle	Telstra
11	Townsville 1	3492.5 MHz to 3495 MHz	Townsville	Townsville Middle	NBN Co
12	Townsville 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Townsville	Townsville Middle	Telstra
13	Rural Central QLD 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural Central QLD	Rural Central QLD Lower	NBN Co
14	Rural Central QLD 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural Central QLD	Rural Central QLD Middle	NBN Co

	Lot name	Frequency range	Region	Adjacent product	Adjacent licensee
15	Rural North NSW / South QLD 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural North NSW / South QLD	Rural North NSW / South QLD Lower	NBN Co
16	Rural North NSW / South QLD 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural North NSW / South QLD	Rural North NSW / South QLD Middle	NBN Co
17	Rural North QLD 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural North QLD	Rural North QLD Lower	NBN Co
18	Rural North QLD 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural North QLD	Rural North QLD Middle	NBN Co
19	Rural SA 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural SA	Rural SA Lower	NBN Co
20	Rural SA 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural SA	Rural SA Middle	NBN Co
21	Rural South / West NSW 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural South / West NSW	Rural South / West NSW Lower	NBN Co
22	Rural South / West NSW 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural South / West NSW	Rural South / West NSW Middle	NBN Co
23	Rural TAS 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural TAS	Rural TAS Lower	NBN Co
24	Rural TAS 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural TAS	Rural TAS Middle	NBN Co
25	Rural VIC 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural VIC	Rural VIC Lower	NBN Co
26	Rural VIC 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural VIC	Rural VIC Middle	NBN Co
27	Rural WA 1	3440 MHz to 3442.5 MHz	Rural WA	Rural WA Lower	AKAL Pty Ltd (ACN 094 107 794) (AKAL)
28	Rural WA 2	3540 MHz to 3542.5 MHz	Rural WA	Rural WA Middle	AKAL

How the allocation process will be conducted

The allocation process will be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in the allocation determination. The allocation process consists of:

- > the direct allocation of leftover lots in the 3.4 GHz band
- > the 3.7 GHz auction
- > the 3.4 GHz auction (including the allocation of any leftover lots not directly allocated to a person).

Direct allocation of leftover lots

Eligible applicants (Telstra, AKAL and NBN Co), or a related body corporate, may apply to be directly allocated one or more leftover lots for the set price. A person must apply to be registered as a bidder before that person can apply to be directly allocated a leftover lot. The application for a leftover lot is contained within the eligibility nomination form (Form 9) and must be made before the eligibility deadline. Once an application to be directly allocated one or more leftover lots has been submitted and the eligibility deadline has passed, it cannot be amended.¹

Any leftover lots that are not directly allocated for the set price may be allocated in the assignment stage of the 3.4 GHz band auction to the winner of the spectrum adjacent to the leftover lot.

3.7 GHz auction and 3.4 GHz auction

The ACMA will hold the 3.7 GHz auction (for the allocation of spectrum licences in the 3.7 GHz band) and the 3.4 GHz auction (for the allocation of spectrum licences in the 3.4 GHz band). Each auction will use a 2-stage generic lots clock (TSGLC) auction format, which includes an English Open Outcry (EOO) format for the secondary stage (if required).

The 3 stages are:

1. **Primary stage** – a clock auction offering frequency-generic lots to determine the quantity of spectrum won by each bidder. The primary stage includes a pre-bidding round where bidders enter their start demands and MSR selections.
2. **Secondary stage** – if required, this stage will make available for allocation any single lot of any product that was not allocated in the primary stage. The secondary stage includes a pre-bidding round for eligible bidders to express demand for a lot by entering a valid starting price bid.
3. **Assignment stage** – for assignment of specific frequencies to lots allocated in the primary and any secondary stages, and for the allocation of leftover lots not directly allocated.

¹ If the ACMA varies starting prices or the set price of leftover lots in accordance with subsection 25(1) of the allocation determination, an applicant must give an updated eligibility nomination form to the ACMA. The applicant may decide to change whether they apply for direct allocation of a leftover lot in that form.

Invitation to participate

The ACMA invites interested persons to apply to take part in the 3.4/3.7 GHz bands allocation process.

Applicant information package

To help prospective participants prepare for the allocation process, the ACMA has published an applicant information package (AIP). The AIP includes the *Auction guide*, legislative instruments, forms, details about fees and payments, key dates, and information on how to lodge documents.

The AIP can be obtained from the [ACMA's website](#).

Auction guide

The *Auction guide* is a plain English explanation of the lots on offer, and how interested parties can take part in the allocation process.

Relevant legislative instruments

The following legislative instruments are relevant to the 3.4/3.7 GHz bands allocation process:

- > [Radiocommunications \(Spectrum Licence Allocation – 3.4/3.7 GHz Bands\) Determination 2023](#)
- > [Radiocommunications Spectrum Marketing Plan \(3.4/3.7 GHz Bands\) 2023](#)
- > [Radiocommunications \(Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 3.4 GHz Band\) Determination 2015](#)
- > [Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines \(Managing Interference from Spectrum Licensed Transmitters – 3.4 GHz Band\) 2015](#)
- > [Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines \(Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers – 3.4 GHz Band\) 2015](#)
- > [Radiocommunications \(Trading Rules for Spectrum Licences\) Determination 2023](#)
- > [Radiocommunications \(Spectrum Licence Tax\) Determination 2021](#)
- > [Radiocommunications \(Spectrum Re-allocation—3.4 GHz and 3.7 GHz Bands\) Declaration 2022](#)

Application fee

The application fee for the allocation process is A\$10,000. This fee is non-refundable, except for circumstances outlined in subsection 35(2) of the allocation determination.

Withdrawing from the allocation process

A person who has applied to be registered as a bidder in the allocation process may only withdraw from the allocation process by giving written notice to the ACMA before the eligibility deadline (or extended eligibility deadline if there is one).²

An applicant that has, or has been taken to have, withdrawn, will not be re-admitted to the allocation process unless the ACMA exercises its power to vary starting prices or the set price of leftover lots.

Applicants that withdraw, or who have been taken to have withdrawn, from the allocation process will remain subject to the confidentiality provisions in the allocation determination until after the end of the allocation period. The ACMA will notify withdrawn applicants that their confidentiality obligation has ended as soon as practicable after the end of the allocation period.

² If the ACMA varies starting prices or the set price of one or more leftover lots in accordance with section 25 of the allocation determination, the eligibility deadline will be extended.

How to contact us

Questions about the allocation process can be directed to:

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