

15 July 2024

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Via ACMA Website Submission



ABC submission to the ACMA consultation regarding: Planning options in the upper 6 GHz band

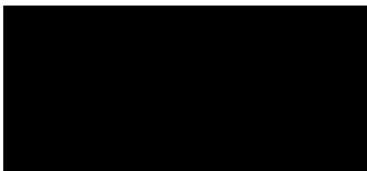
The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above consultation, which was released by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on 4 June 2024.

Although not an incumbent licensee of spectrum in the upper 6 GHz band (6425 – 7125 GHz), the ABC works closely with Australia’s commercial television broadcasters in the coordinated use of spectrum, infrastructure and technology for Television Outside Broadcast (TOB) operations. As the upper 6 GHz band overlaps commercial broadcaster TOB allocations at 7.2 GHz, the Corporation has an interest in any planning that might impact future TOB arrangements.

The ABC utilises TOB spectrum at 8.3 and 13 GHz, in addition to 2 GHz, 2.2 GHz and the 2.5 GHz “mid-band-gap”, with most usage occurring at 2, 2.2 and 2.5 GHz. With this consultation concerning TOB spectrum at 7.2 GHz and the current review of the Spectrum Licenced TOB allocation in the 2.5 GHz mid-band-gap, there is overall uncertainty around the medium-to-long-term utility of spectrum to support TOB operations.

The ABC is therefore concerned to ensure that, in reviewing planning options for the upper 6 GHz band, the ACMA takes into consideration the requirements of television broadcasters in respect of TOB usage. Consistent with the Corporation’s recent submission to the ACMA concerning Expiring Spectrum Licence access to the 2.5 GHz mid-band-gap, the ABC remains aligned with the commercial free-to-air broadcasters in a desire for certainty over the longer-term access to TOB spectrum and this submission supports the views of the commercial broadcasters, represented by Free TV Australia, made in their separate submission to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Bowman
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