ARA Submission

Draft Five-Year Spectrum Outlook 2021–26 Work Program

Consultation Daft

30 April 2021

ABN 64 217 302 489

# The Industry

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) is a not-for-profit member-based association that represents rail throughout Australia and New Zealand. Our members include rail operators, track owners and managers, manufacturers, construction companies and other firms contributing to the rail sector. We contribute to the development of industry and government policies in an effort to ensure Australia’s passenger and freight transport systems are well represented and will continue to provide improved services for Australia’s growing population.

This submission has been developed is consultation with ARA member organisations.

Any questions regarding this submission should be directed to Simon Bourke, General Manager – Policy and Government Relations via [sbourke@ara.net.au](mailto:sbourke@ara.net.au).

# Issues for Comment

The following information is provided by the ARA to address the issues for comment provided in the Consultation Draft.

1. Do you have any feedback on the ACMA’s approach to the five-year spectrum outlook?

The ARA welcomes inclusion of the European review of 1900–1910 MHz band for future railway mobile communication systems (FMRCS) in reviewing 1880-1920 MHz band.

1. Are there other technology developments or sources of spectrum demand that the ACMA should be aware of in considering spectrum management over the next 5 years?

Initially, EU reserved 2 x 4 MHz of spectrum in 900 MHz band for rail mobile communications. In Australia this spectrum was already in use resulting in the Rail Industry licensing spectrum in 1800 MHz band to deploy Safety Systems for Rail Operations.

As of 17 November 2020, the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) approved a draft recommendation allocating 10 MHz in the 1900 MHz band for European railways.

An opportunity exists to establish harmony between EU and Australian spectrum that would provide a number of benefits to the Australian Rail Industry, such as access to standard 3GPP equipment and alignment of standards and specifications.