



Australian
National
University

The Manager
Economics Advisory
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 13112 Law Courts
Melbourne Victoria 8010

Dear Madam / Sir,

This document contains the Australian National University Institute for Space's (InSpace) response to consultation 38/2021 "Response to the Implementation of the Spectrum Pricing Review (part 2)."

Response to Question 3

ANU InSpace welcomes the proposal to introduce a new spectrum location band for services above 100 GHz with a tax rate at the minimum tax. However, there is still a significant disparity between ACMA's treatment of optical communications spectrum compared to that of other countries and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). ACMA regulates and taxes spectrum up to 420 THz, whereas the ITU only regulates for frequencies up to 3 THz.

While the proposed minimum tax for the new >100 GHz band is a positive step forward, the requirement to apply for a licence still places a burden on companies and universities wanting to establish optical ground stations in Australia that is not present in other countries. Therefore, InSpace encourages ACMA to consider reviewing the current legislation to bring Australia in line with global standards by only regulating spectrum up to 3 THz. This will help spur innovation and keep Australia globally competitive.