

To: ACMA- Australian Communications & Media Authority.

3 June 2025.

Changes to CB radio arrangements and class licensing.

From: Barry McNeil

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Dear Sir,

I have read your proposals in the above mentioned matter in relationship to the CB class licensing agreement, and I fully support it.

I started as a CB radio operator in the early 1970's and it promoted interest in the hobby and promoted introduction to amateur radio and further radio interests.

Re introduction to the use of frequency modulation on the HF CB band, I think it's a great idea, especially due to the availability of such radio's due being aligned with European & United States regulations.

Use of channels 5, 35 on UHF and ch 9 HF for emergency use only, you state that nowadays most people have mobile phones, however there are vast areas of Australia do not have phone coverage, especially in rural areas and I feel this should be retained. As an alternative, it could be introduced that when a "state of emergency" or other extra ordinary circumstances arise, this rule could be set in place, such as the 2019 Bushfires in NSW, to which I served in the RFS.

Re channels 22 & 23 HF and channels 61, 62 & 63 being reserved for narrow band telemetry, in this day and age, I feel that is a great idea. As a licensed amateur radio operator, I find these modes most useful and practical and I see no reason the HF and UHF citizens band operators could not avail themselves of these modes, especially in times of emergencies and strategic data could be sent over the air in absence of conventional means, ie internet and mobile phone services.

Re use of 3 calling channels to be used for an initial contact, I agree that this is unnecessary, especially if operators have their own nets they use.

I am in favour of your proposals.

Yours faithfully

Barry McNeil

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