



## CREST NSW Inc

### Submission to Re Making the CB Class License

Please note the original document headings have been left to establish a reference to the comment.

#### **What the CB class licence does**

*CREST 0025- outdated understanding. Citizen Band Radio service is not known as CB Radio. There has been a distinct change to “The UHF” Some reference it as “Community Band” the word citizen is not used. Citizen is not used as it was in the 70s many government documents refer to community.*

*The use of CB for business should be frowned on. Business should be using commercial channels for the safety of their employees. CB is commonly used by traffic control or crane and dogman situation; all should be on private channels. Anyone could give false directions over the air.*

*It is ‘Citizens or Community Radio’ not business radio, businesses and councils use CB like it is their own radio network, tying up repeaters.*

#### **Changes to the CB class licence**

*CREST 0125- Is the class license working effectively. If we consider the CB users, many will not understand jargon used. The class license needs to reflect current terminology, the change from citizens to community.*

*The license would be best written for the layman as it serves the community of Australia.*

*The NSW EMPlan reflects the use of the word community as do other documents.*

*CREST 0225- Is the class license fit for purpose. Many CB users do not read the license as it is too hard for them to understand. They rely on what other people tell them. As this is a document for public consumption it needs to have as much as possible in it. There are other documents referenced in the Class*

*License it would be better for the end reader to have the information in one place.*

## **Frequency modulation use in the HF band**

*CREST 0325- Agree.*

## **Initiating contact on HF channels 11 and 16 and UHF channel 11**

*CREST 0425- Communities utilise the call channels to initiate calls between residents.*

## **Consent of an inspector about altering a CB radio**

*CREST 0525- Agree.*

## **Prohibition on certain 'on-air' conduct**

*CREST 0625- There must be a clear explanation on how CB users deal with people that use high powered equipment to dictate control of the network, or use language not suitable for public ears.*

*If ACMA are the legislated federal entity that manages what can be said on TV and Radio, the same controls should be applied to CB radio.*

## **Directions given by inspectors and other persons**

*CREST 0725- Agree in principle. Needs to be well explained. The public do not search for information most will look at the licence for all the answers.*

## **A CB radio connected to a telecommunications network**

*CREST 0825- Agree*

## **Use of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications**

*CREST 08 This like other determinations need to be explained in the simplest way.*

## **Formatting and other drafting changes**

*CREST 0925- We see many issues with the current instrument, people reading this document are not technical. They are novices, sections are explained using uncommon language.*

*The current instrument and supporting legislative and instructions need to be simple and easy to understand for anyone.*

## **Other matters for comment not reflected in the CB class licence 2025**

We want to raise 2 further matters that are not reflected in the CB class licence 2025. This is because we wish to understand what stakeholder views are – including levels of demand – to inform our future approach in these areas. We welcome evidence (either qualitative or quantitative) to support any comments provided.

## **Emergency communications on HF channel 9 and UHF channels 5 and 35**

*CREST 1025- CREST is well involved in the roll out of a CB network that communities will use when all other forms of communications have failed.*

*Yes, no matter how much money is thrown at technology it has limitation.*

*The NSW state EMPlan has changed allowing communities to be more involved before during and after a disaster.*

*Communities are being proactive and starting to develop community plans and guideline that provide the community with a better outcome in the recovery process.*

*Communities are learning to use simplex UHF CB, allowing each resident to communicate with other resident. Passing messages from house to house, until it arrives at a coordinator, or resident with a means of communication out of the community.*

*Once communities have an understanding of how to pass messages when networks fail. We then provide communities with repeaters, this allows each resident to communicate with the community communications leader (warden).*

*This process would be made easier as there are a number of 5/35 repeaters in play in NSW and other states, and the rules for setting them up can work with the community networks.*

*Communities in other states are setting UHF CB radio networks, changing the 5/35 ruling would assist with this process.*

## **Channel arrangements for data transmission (telemetry and telecommand)**

### **Channels 22 and 23**

*CREST 1125- This will help users make the decision to obtain a modern radio that better complies with the new requirements.*

*Some thought must be given to the farming community that have equipment monitoring trough, tank water and gate monitors.*

*However, we understand that some farmers may be using channels 21 and 22, and wonder if they should be left as they are allowing 61, 62 and 63 to be allocated to be voice not telemetry.*

### **Channels 61, 62 and 63**

*Release as voice channels for community use*

#### **CREST NSW General**

*With the change to how the community uses CB (or as it is known UHF) We would suggest retaining channel 9, 5 and 35 renaming them as community emergency channels. Keeping them clear for community but allowing them to be used in disasters and for training. This would save having to change the rules in establishing these repeaters, allowing the community to use the channels, it would provide monitoring of the channels.*

*As it is specific in the use for emergencies, the channels cannot be used for training in preparation for its use in disasters.*

*Communities need access to all UHF CB repeater channels, however, the 100km/70km (unworkable rules in other documents) these rules are impractical.*

*The explanation used by assigners is not well written and fails to meet the needs of the community. Failure to improve the explanation on distance between repeaters may equate to the loss of life.*

*We cannot see a reason for the distance rules, unless we can change to power out put of a CB repeaters or radio fixed in a building to more than 5w.*

*This would help many communities with their communications, and who they can communicate with.*

*In the recent cyclone Alfred UHF CB was used by a resident trapped in a vehicle in on a flooded road, the patient was rescued, thanks to CB.*

*CREST NSW Inc*

*Committee*

T Matts