

The Manager  
Spectrum Licencing Policy Section  
Australian Communications and Media Authority

## CB Class Licence Review

Thankyou for the opportunity to have input into the future direction of CB radio in Australia. CB radio is an incredibly important service to many people in this country, from those who are running businesses to farmers, to emergency services to those who simply use it for fun. This is a rare chance to consider what the people think and gain valuable feedback. The proposed changes in the document are a great step forward but I would like to touch on a few things which I have listed below.

**Emergencies;** HF Ch9 and UHF 5/35 are the current designated emergency channels, and while I have not spent much time listening to HF Ch9 I can see its value in remaining the emergency channel, particularly outside of the city limits where mobile phone coverage starts to become unreliable. **UHF 5/35 is not working.** Many people are ignoring the 5/35 designation and using it for normal day to day communications. There is an active 5/35 repeater near Melbourne and there is regular misuse of the channel. The most annoying thing I hear on this channel is the CREST organisation with an automated announcement seemingly every 5 minutes telling everyone that this is an emergency channel only. There is also a great number of people who don't understand repeaters and would not be able to figure out how to change their radio from simplex to duplex or vice versa for use in an emergency situation. Also whether we are talking about HF or UHF, who is listening? If nobody is then it makes having a designated emergency channel redundant.

With changes in modern technology becoming reliable and cheap enough I would like to propose a slight change to the UHF CB emergency channel and a system to better support it.

Step 1: Make UHF Ch9 the emergency channel. This makes it the same channel designation on both HF and UHF. This removes the potential for someone to be in simplex mode on channel 35 and not get a reply because they aren't listening to channel 5.

Step 1.1 Ban the use of CTCSS and DCS tones on this frequency. Have all new radios be required to display the word "EMERGENCY" when tuned to CH9

Step 2: Encourage emergency services to listen to HF and UHF Ch9 for local emergency response. It would be great to know that if I come across an incident or accident that I could call the local crews and speak directly as well as calling 000.

Step 2.1: Allow emergency services radios access to UHF Ch9 so that every Rescue, Fire truck, ambulance and police car can use that channel to communicate directly with civilians. This would be regardless of if they have a UHF radio in the vehicle already or not.

Step 3: Use a VOIP system for both HF and UHF to cover as much of the country as practically possible to bring emergency communications back to a centralised call monitoring/response centre. This system could then be used in conjunction with other systems to broadcast emergency warnings to local areas.

Step 4: Advertise the new system so that everyone knows that on both CB bands the emergency channel is 9.

DMR on UHF. Is there some frequencies available that would be close enough to the UHF CB band for existing antennas to work efficiently to allow Digital Mobile Radio - DMR as a mode of transmission? DMR is an open source mode so would be open to all manufacturers of CB radio equipment. I am not proposing for even 1 second that existing UHF CB frequencies be allowed to use DMR as a transmission mode, and there may be another gap in a band that might be better suited to this tech, and I release that getting this through on this limited time frame is not feasible however I do believe that it should be investigated and maybe even trialled at some stage before the next sunseting of the class licence.

Type Approval HF - Simply put - there isn't many new radios that are type approved for HF. I know there is a lot of "cowboys" out there using amateur radio equipment to broadcast but there is a lot of people who would like to keep it legal. If you could accept an American FCC approved radio as type approved for use in Australia it would go a long way to keeping it legal. It would also open up the possibility of shop front trade for these units instead of people getting eBay specials and risking the inspector seeing and confiscating them.

DATA 22 & 23 - I have never used channels 22 & 23 for data, I don't have any issues with changing channels 22&23 to FM Narrow band and allowing voice transmission. It would also open up channel 61-63 for general use. I also don't see the need to ban data Tx on these channels.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me for further detail or clarification.