

Changes to CB radio arrangements

Dear ACMA,

I wish to make a submission to the Changes to CB radio arrangements.

I applaud the ACMA for updating the regulations to phase out outdated things and bring in new things.

I have been on CB Radio since the late 1970s and just about have seen and heard everything that has happened on CB radio.

There are two main areas which I believe the ACMA still needs to address.

Emergency Frequencies

HF Ch9 and UHF Chs 5 and 35.

These channels should always set aside for ONLY emergency traffic and it should be enforced by law. Whether it is enforced or not is another thing but it is still there on the books so if someone is so stupid to ignore warnings and continues to run amuck, they can be fined.

Also the CB equipment standard should be modified so if anyone selects an emergency channel, the channel number flashes and word "emergency appears" on the display or a red LED flashes and the word "emergency" is written next to it.

This needs to be mandated, as most people who use CB Radio have no idea about the channel structure and what they are used for. So this will immediately teach them that it is an emergency channel and not to use emergency channels for "chit chat".

Safeworking over CB Radio

This is a big one that the ACMA needs to stamp out and that is Safeworking activities over CB Radio, which for example includes (and not limited to) directing of traffic or directing a crane driver. This is mainly done on UHF CB. This practice is extremely unsafe and is a disaster waiting to happen. It is not a matter of if it will happen but when. Idiots could block important transmissions and /or impersonate one of the persons giving the instructions.

This obviously is mainly carried out by commercial companies and so a private commercial low powered UHF frequency/s should be purchased to do safeworking activities.

If people &/or organisations continue to do safeworking activities over CB Radio after an official warning, then there should be fines issued.

I hope you give my suggestions good consideration when deliberating the changes to the CB bands.

Regards,

Douglas Johnson