

Changes to CB radio arrangements

Submission

Phil Dwyer

Re- emergency channel monitoring (channel 5 UHF) and UHF repeaters.

I would like to propose that CTCSS (subaudible continuous tone coded squelch systems) are permissible for use on the receivers of repeater stations.

The reasons are as follows:-

In regional areas where there is poor mobile phone coverage many community groups have installed UHF CB repeater stations. Many of these repeaters are solar and battery powered, making them more reliable in disasters or when the phone network is down or congested. In an emergency most people will look for help on the local repeater because you have greater coverage on the repeater station and it is more likely that someone is listening than on UHF 5 in remote areas.

One of the biggest problems is people stop monitoring the repeater station or solar powered repeater stations run short of power because of constant interference from people using channels 31 to 38 or 71 to 78 who are unaware that they are causing interference. They can not hear the repeater station because they are not receiving the repeater output transmission on channels 1 to 8 or 41 to 48 and can't be made aware of this because they are not within direct range of the people monitoring the repeater.

A CTCSS squelch system on the repeater station receiver would reduce this interference as the repeater station users would be the only ones with the repeater station CTCSS code enabled on their radios.

Access to all UHF CB users is still possible as all radios sold since 2011 have CTCSS capabilities which may need to be included in the equipment standard requirements for type approval specifications in future. Users of some older 40 channel 16 kHz radios that are not CTCSS equipped could have CTCSS encoder boards added if required.

The CTCSS tones used on repeaters could be published and/or announced on the repeater identification transmissions.

These issues of concern with repeater stations, monitoring and emergencies as well as the suitability of optional CTCSS repeater access to reduce or eliminate the interference problems are shared by a number of groups that support UHF CB repeater stations.

These include:-

The Cheshunt Repeater Action Group (C.R.A.G.) who hold the licence of CHE07 (1987779/2) on the Black Range at Edi Upper in North East Victoria.

This was discussed with committee members on the 6th of June 2025,

The Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club (S.A.D.A.R.C.) licensee of WBT03 (12307924/1), Strathbogie ranges in Victoria. This was discussed with members at their monthly meeting on the 7th on June 2025,

The North East Victoria Amateur Radio Club (N.E.V.A.R.C.), discussed at June meeting on the 8th of June 2025,

And myself, licensee of [REDACTED] at Mount Bruno, Warby Ranges, Victoria.

Regards

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