



Our Ref: OCR25714277
File No: ADM0246

14 July 2025

Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 13112 Law Courts
MELBOURNE VIC 8010

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: LICENSING OF CITIZEN BAND RADIO STATIONS – EMERGENCY CHANNEL USE

The Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, comprising Broomehill East, Broomehill West, Broomehill Central, Tambellup East, Tambellup West, and Tambellup Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service wish to provide the following feedback concerning the proposed changes to the Citizen Band (CB) Radio licensing arrangements, particularly as they relate to emergency channel allocations.

Currently, the Shire's Bushfire Brigades Communications Plan designates Channel 5 as the primary channel for all initial bushfire response communications. Channel 5 is widely used by our farmer response vehicles, the backbone of our rural firefighting efforts, since most agricultural machinery is already equipped with CB radios for day-to-day farm operations.

Upon notification of a fire within the area, responding units immediately switch to Channel 5 to receive critical information, including directions for access and initial Situation Reports. Should the fire escalate beyond initial containment (typically within 20–30 minutes), the incident ground is then sectorised, and each sector is assigned a separate channel, usually the channel commonly used by the property owner or neighbouring farms.

Reassigning the initial response channel to another frequency (e.g. Channel 15) poses a significant risk, as that channel may already be in use by local landholders or groups, leading to confusion, interference, and the potential for delayed or miscommunicated instructions during critical periods.

Importantly, only authorised Fire Control Officers have access to the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network. As such, the broader availability and compatibility of CB Channel 5 remain essential to ensure effective coordination in the field, particularly in areas where mobile phone coverage is unreliable or unavailable.

Communication via CB radio enables all personnel on the channel to receive and respond to instructions in real time, which is vital for maintaining safety and operational control.

We trust that you will consider this submission favourably and support the continued designation of Channel 5 as a dedicated emergency response channel within our region.

Clear and accessible communications are vital to the safety of our volunteer firefighters and the broader community during emergency incidents.

Yours sincerely

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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

cc:

Two black rectangular redaction boxes covering the email addresses listed in the cc field.