

Our Ref:
File No:

The Manager
Spectrum Licensing Policy Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 13112
Melbourne Vic 8010

Shire of Katanning
Austral Tce
Katanning WA 6317

Dear Sir / Madam

Re – New Licencing of the Citizen Ban Radio Stations Emergency Channels

The local Volunteer Bushfire Brigades of Carrolup, Badgebup, Merribin and Katanning Central would like to submit the following comments in relation to the licence renewal referring to the minor changes of the emergency channels.

Currently the Shire Bushfire Brigades "Communications Plan" has CH 5 as the go to channel for all bushfire incidents initially. Our farmer response vehicles which are our main responders to bushfire in the rural areas utilise CH 5 for communications across the fire ground, due to most agricultural vehicles having a CB radio located in them for communicating across their farm networks. Once a fire call is received within the area all farmer units that are responding turn to CH 5 to receive direction on how to best access the incident as well as receiving a Situation Report. If the fire is not controlled within approx 20-30 minutes the fire ground is then Sectorised with each Sector being delegated its own channel. This is usually the CH the property owner and neighbouring properties utilize in there day to day activities on the farm.

To utilize another CH eg 15 that could be already dedicated to a local property or group could imping on the information being circulated at that crucial time.

Only Fire Control Officers have access to the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network thus the requirement for a dedicated channel like CH 5 should remain in the system for this reason as an emergency Channel.

We hope that you view this submission favourably as communications on the fire ground is paramount and we require information to be circulated with ease to keep our Volunteer Bushfire Fighters safe. This line of communication is ideal as mobile phone coverage is not



Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

always available and when information is exchanged over the CB radio network all those on the CH can hear the information and act appropriately to the directions supplied.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

12 July 2025