

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:

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

Submitted via Online Portal

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Re – New Licencing of the Citizen Ban Radio Stations**

The local Volunteer Bushfire Brigades of Cartmesticup, Glencoe, Boyerine Westwood, Centre and Beaufort Kenmare 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 a Situation Report. If the fire is not controlled within approx 20-30 minutes the fire ground is then Sectorized with each sector being delegated its own channel. This is usually the CH the property owner and neighbouring properties utilize in their 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 impinge 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, as this line of communication is ideal as mobile phones coverage is not 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.

Yours Faithfully

  
**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER**

15 July 2025

