

AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

SATELLITE SERVICES WORKING GROUP

SUBMISSION

To: Australian Communications and Media Authority

Re: Interim arrangements for W-band fixed satellite service
earth station transmitters

3 December 2025

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE	3
2. RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION	4

2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 SSWG Considerations.....	4

1. AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

The Australian Telecommunications Alliance (ATA) is the peak body of the Australian telecommunications industry. We are the trusted voice at the intersection of industry, government, regulators, and consumers. Through collaboration and leadership, we shape initiatives that grow the Australian telecommunications industry, enhance connectivity for all Australians, and foster the highest standards of business behaviour. For more details, visit www.austelco.org.au.

For questions on this submission, please contact [REDACTED]

2. RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

The Australian Telecommunications Alliance (ATA) Satellite Services Working Group (SSWG) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission in response to the Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA's) consultation on *Interim arrangements for W-band fixed satellite service earth station transmitters* issued on 5 Nov 2025.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The ACMA is aware of the significant demand for additional satellite spectrum to support major technical innovations including high-gigabit capacity, low-latency applications as well as more efficient use of existing FSS bands as evidenced in the studies being undertaken in the ITU WRC-27 agenda items. The SSWG would encourage ACMA to continue to support the satellite industry in order for the public to derive long-term benefits from access to suitable spectrum with appropriate regulatory mechanisms.

2.2 SSWG CONSIDERATIONS

As ACMA has noted in its consultation webpage, both the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and CEPT's Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) are consulting within the USA and Europe respectively on the use of the 'W-band' at 92.0 – 4.0 GHz, 94.1 – 100 GHz, 102.0 – 109.5 GHz, and 111.8 – 114.25 GHz for FSS (Earth-to-space) applications. The Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan 2021 (ARSP) does not currently allocate the W-band for fixed-satellite services (FSS) as seen in the ARSP extract in the Annex.

The ECC in a work item (FM44_52) notes that the ITU-R Resolution 750 (REV. WRC-19) refers to studies undertaken between FS in 92 – 94 GHz and EESS (passive) in the adjacent band and that sharing studies are underway between EESS (passive) and adjacent bands 92 – 94 GHz for MS and RLS and 111.8 – 114.25 GHz for FS and MS in WRC-27 A1.18 in accordance with Resolution 712 (WRC-23).

The SSWG understands that there are proposals for the 'W-bands' to be used within the Sydney, Melbourne and Perth CBDs for non-GSO gateway earth stations supporting broadband satellite services. These bands provide the opportunity for satellite services to access up to 17.85 GHz of uplink bandwidth. The SSWG would see this as a good use of spectrum resources currently underutilised and commends ACMA for taking this initiative.

The SSWG supports ACMA's proposal that the earth station licences will be:

- assessed in accordance with ACMA's established 'Procedure for earth and earth receive licensing, and registering earth stations'.
- authorised on the condition that no interference is caused to any licensed radiocommunications station or service, and no protection from interference by such stations or services will be afforded.

Noting ACMA's proposal to issue licences for a non-renewable term of one year, the SSWG would request ACMA give priority to these licences being renewed until ACMA implements a formal review of the band so that licensees can maximise return on their investments. Further, the SSWG would consider future

request for earth station licences using the same approach proposed. The SSWG would suggest that the experiences of the licensees using these bands will be invaluable in ACMA's future review of the band.

Annex: Australian Table of Frequency Band Allocations¹
92 – 94, 94.1 – 95, 95 – 100, 102 – 105, 105 – 109.5, 111.8 – 114.25 GHz

Column 1: ITU Radio Regulations Table of Allocations			Column 2:
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Australian Table of Allocations
92 – 94	FIXED 338A MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY RADIOLOCATION 149		92 – 94 FIXED 338A MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY RADIOLOCATION 149 AUS87
94.1 – 95	FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY RADIOLOCATION 149		94.1 – 95 FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY RADIOLOCATION 149 AUS87
95 – 100	FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY RADIOLOCATION RADIONAVIGATION RADIONAVIGATION–SATELLITE 149 554		95 – 100 FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY RADIOLOCATION RADIONAVIGATION RADIONAVIGATION– SATELLITE 149 554 AUS87
102 – 105	FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY 149 341		102 – 105 FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY 149 341 AUS87
105 – 109.5	FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY SPACE RESEARCH (passive) 562B 149 341		105 – 109.5 FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY SPACE RESEARCH (passive) 562B 149 341 AUS87
111.8 – 114.25	FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY SPACE RESEARCH (passive) 562B 149 341		111.8 – 114.25 FIXED MOBILE RADIO ASTRONOMY SPACE RESEARCH (passive) 562B 149 341 AUS87

Ends

¹ Extract from the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan 2021

