

Five-year spectrum outlook 2025–30: 6-month progress report For the 2025–26 work program

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Five-year spectrum outlook 2025–30: 6-month progress report

Each year, we publish our plans to manage spectrum in the five-year spectrum outlook (FYSO).

As we work through complex and interconnected spectrum issues, we may need to adjust timeframes in response to changing priorities, stakeholder feedback and industry developments. This ensures we continue planning for spectrum use to deliver the long-term public interest. We communicate changes to our work program to stakeholders via 6-month and annual progress reports.

This FYSO 6-month progress report outlines our progress from 1 July to 31 December 2025 on the activities set out in the 2025–26 annual work program in the [FYSO 2025–30](#). It updates projects and explains changes to intended timeframes and prioritisation. These updates are provided to assist stakeholders with their planning and activities. Activities that have been added to our annual work program are identified with a ‘new’ symbol: .

Some projects have experienced delays due to new items of work, consideration of additional feedback or emerging complexities associated with existing work. We will consider possible use of land mobile stations on certain VHF maritime channels by emergency service organisations due to trial feedback. We will also further consider matters relating to the 2 GHz mobile-satellite service (MSS) allocation, arising from feedback from the Q3 2025 consultation on technical framework and allocation design.

We have also redirected some resources otherwise earmarked to deliver FYSO initiatives to contribute to strengthening Triple Zero. This includes improvements to mobile network coverage mapping and investigating circumstances where certain mobile devices have been unable to connect to Triple Zero.

We look forward to consulting on the draft FYSO 2026–31, which we expect to release in March 2026. Establishing each FYSO enables vital engagement with industry and the community as we set and maintain Australia’s spectrum management priorities.

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Band-planning activities

Planning stage	Frequency band/s	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Monitoring	600 MHz (617–698 MHz) 3.3 GHz (3300–3400 MHz) 4 GHz (4400–4990 MHz) 13 GHz (12.75–13.25 GHz) 40 GHz (37–43.5 GHz) 46 GHz (45.5–47 GHz) 47 GHz (47.2–48.2 GHz) Bands being studied for a possible IMT identification under WRC-27 agenda items 1.7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4400–4800 MHz • 7125–8400 MHz • 14.8–15.35 GHz. 	Continue to monitor domestic and international developments to identify usage trends.	ONGOING	600 MHz band: we will monitor the progress of the government’s consideration of the future of television broadcasting. No change to monitoring status of other bands listed (including bands that are dependent on WRC-27 outcomes).

Planning stage	Frequency band/s	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
	5030–5091 MHz band for drone command and non-payload communications (CNPC)	<p>Continue to monitor development of the relevant draft ITU recommendation that specifies the characteristics of terrestrial air-ground links operating in the aeronautical mobile radiocommunication service.</p> <p>Further work depends on global developments and domestic needs.</p>	ONGOING	Demand for access to current interim arrangements remains minimal.
Initial investigation	2300–2302 MHz	Not scheduled for 2025–26.	N/A	N/A
Preliminary replanning	1.5 GHz (1427–1535 MHz)	<p>Q2 2026: release options paper.</p> <p>Q3 2026: release outcomes paper and begin implementation.</p>	ONGOING	Remains on track for 2026 consultation.
	1800 MHz and 2 GHz bands outside of spectrum-licensed areas	Q1 2026: release outcomes paper and implement changes (including to RALIs) as required.	ONGOING	N/A

Planning stage	Frequency band/s	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Implementation	1.9 GHz (1880–1920 MHz)	Q4 2025: consult on arrangements for rail services and indoor short-range WBB in the 1.9 GHz band.	ONGOING	<p>Consultation paper released in December 2025.</p> <p>The release of an outcomes paper is expected to be delayed until Q2 2026 due to an extended consultation timeframe.</p>
	2 GHz MSS (1980–2010 MHz and 2170–2200 MHz)	Q1 2026: consult on allocation instruments (subject to the outcomes of the Q3 2025 further consultation of allocation, licensing and technical matters).	DELAYED	<p>Q2 2026: consultation on allocation instruments – delayed due to need for further consideration of allocation settings and complex issues raised in previous consultation.</p> <p>Q4 2026: commence process allocation (subject to the outcomes of the Q2 2026 consultation).</p>
	Upper 6 GHz (6585–7100 MHz)	<p>Continue to monitor international developments that would support the establishment of a WBB equipment in the range 6585–7100 MHz.</p> <p>Q1 2026 (at the earliest): consult on apparatus-licensed WBB arrangements in 6585–7100 MHz (exact timing may depend on when we commence implementation of WA WBB arrangements inside defined areas).</p>	ONGOING	<p>We aim to commence implementation of arrangements for WA WBB in defined areas in Q4 2026. This will start with defining the areas and licence type to be used for WA WBB.</p> <p>We intend to prioritise the introduction of WBB access in populated areas. We do not expect to commence work on WBB arrangements outside defined areas in the FY2026–27.</p>

Forward allocation workplan

Band	Stage	FYSO timeframe	Notes	Allocation method	Progress	Updates
2 GHz MSS (1980–2005/2170–2195 MHz)	Further consultation on allocation and licensing design and technical framework matters.	Q2 2026 (subject to further consultation)	Allocation of apparatus licences.	Our preliminary view is that a price-based allocation mechanism may be required to resolve competing demand for the spectrum, subject to further consideration.	DELAYED	<p>Delayed due to need for further consideration of allocation settings and complex issues raised in previous consultation.</p> <p>Subject to consulting on allocation instruments in Q2 2026 and the feedback received, we anticipate that the allocation process will commence Q4 2026.</p>

Optimising established planning frameworks

Planning area	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Broadcasting	Vary several solus licence areas in NSW and Vic ¹ to enable AM to FM conversions.	Ongoing: consultation conducted as needed.	ONGOING	Hamilton LAP variation likely to be consulted in Q1 2026
	Vary several solus licence areas in WA to enable AM to FM conversions.	Ongoing: timing driven by broadcasters.	COMPLETE	Perth and Remote WA LAP variations finalised on 4 December 2025.
	Vary several competitive licence areas in NSW, Vic and ACT ² to enable AM to FM conversions.	Ongoing: consultation conducted as needed.	ONGOING	Deniliquin LAP variation finalised on 31 July 2025.
	Consult on digital radio channel plans for the licence areas where broadcasters have committed to rollout digital radio.	Ongoing: timing is driven by demand from broadcasters.	ONGOING	No requests received from eligible broadcasters.
Satellite	Consider applications for test and demonstration purposes in the 2 GHz band.	Ongoing	ONGOING	N/A
	Manage filing and coordination of Australian satellite systems.	Ongoing	ONGOING	Undertaken on a per-request basis.

¹ This may include a subset of the following commercial licence areas: Lismore, Lithgow, Inverell, Moree, Gunnedah, Young and Parkes. We are consulting with the licensees to determine indicative timelines and relative priorities. Proceeding with these variations may depend on the relevant licensees making timely strategic business decisions on available implementation options.

² This may include a subset of the following commercial licence areas: Albury, Atherton, Bunbury, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Kempsey, Maryborough (Bendigo), Maryborough (Qld), Murwillumbah, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Orange, Sale Toowoomba and Warragul. We are consulting with the licensees to determine indicative timelines and relative priorities. Proceeding with these variations may depend on the relevant licensees making timely strategic business decisions on available implementation options.

Planning area	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Low interference potential devices (LIPD)	Monitor developments.	Ongoing	ONGOING	The Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2025 is generally updated every 18–24 months.
Intelligent Transport Systems	Monitor developments in cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS).	Ongoing	ONGOING	Continuing to monitor developments.
Spectrum planning, assignment and coordination requirements	Review our apparatus licence assignment and coordination requirements to ensure their currency and consistency with current technologies and operational practices.	Ongoing	ONGOING	N/A
Review of spectrum licence technical frameworks	Review of spectrum licence technical frameworks below 4 GHz, on a band-by-band basis.	Q4 2025: release outcomes of the 700 MHz band review and commenced review of the 2.5 GHz band review.	COMPLETE	<p>We released the outcomes of the 700 MHz band review in October 2025 and are now working with spectrum licensees to update relevant conditions on their licences.</p> <p>We commenced a TLG in October 2025 which is considering changes to the 2.5 GHz spectrum licence technical framework.</p>

Planning area	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
<p>Higher-power 6 GHz band RLAN</p>	<p>Consider approaches to permit standard power RLANs in the 6 GHz band.</p>	<p>Q4 2025: release discussion paper focussing on AFC enabled higher power RLAN.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>	<p>Discussion paper released on 5 November 2025, closed on 30 January 2026.</p> <p>We are currently considering the submissions and plan to release a response to submissions in Q1 2026.</p>

Licensing and licensing systems

Work area	Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Expiring spectrum licences (ESLs)	Release stage 4, including preferred views and response to stage 3 submissions.	Q4 2025	COMPLETE	Preferred views and a response to submissions published on 17 December 2025.
	Consultation on ESL application and decision-making process.	Q4 2025	ONGOING	Consultation undertaken 17 December 2025 to 27 February 2026. Outcome expected in Q2 2026.
	Additional consultation on our approach to pricing spectrum subject to the ESL process.	Q4 2025	ONGOING	Consultation undertaken 17 December 2025 to 27 February 2026. Outcome expected in Q2 2026.
	Explore the merits of a secondary licensing framework.	Q4 2025	ONGOING	We are continuing to work with the Department to explore the merits of a secondary licensing framework.
Maritime regulatory arrangements – portable and mobile land mobile radio (LMR)	Consult on arrangements to facilitate specified LMR portable and mobile terminal use on maritime VHF channels for emergency services organisations.	Q4 2025	DELAYED	Delayed due to the need for further consideration following trial feedback. Consultation planned for Q3 2026.
Merger reform	Consult on amendments to the Radiocommunications (Trading Rules for Spectrum Licences) Determination 2023 .	Q4 2025	COMPLETE	Consultation undertaken 14 to 28 November 2025. Mandatory notification requirements commenced on 1 January 2026. Find more information about merger reform on the ACMA website .

Pricing

Project priorities	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Update the total annual EME component amount for 2025–26.	Q3 2025	COMPLETE	After consultation , we updated the EME component as proposed.
Implement the annual update of taxes using the population-based methodology .	Q1 2026	ONGOING	Consultation undertaken 27 October to 1 December 2025. We expect tax updates to apply from 5 April 2026.

Compliance and enforcement

Compliance priority	FYSO timeframe	Progress	Updates
Develop a voluntary pledge with eCommerce platforms to better protect Australian consumers buying non-compliant radiocommunications devices online.	2025–26	COMPLETE	The Equipment Safety Pledge launched 12 December 2025 with 6 signatories – eBay, SHEIN, Temu, Gumtree, Radio Warehouse and Icom Australia.

International engagement planned for 2025–26

Meeting	FYSO timeframe	Progress/updates
ITU-R Working Party 5D	24 June to 3 July 2025	COMPLETE
Tongan Deputy Prime Minister and delegation	16 July 2025	COMPLETE

Meeting	FYSO timeframe	Progress/updates
APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28 July to 1 August 2025	COMPLETE
Ukrainian Chair of the National Council of TV and Radio Broadcasting	29 July 2025	COMPLETE
Indian Secretary for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and delegation	21 August 2025	COMPLETE
APT Wireless Group Meeting 35 (AWG-35)	8 to 12 September 2025	COMPLETE
Indonesian Taskforce for Submarine Cable and Pipeline Deployment	11 September 2025	COMPLETE
ITU-R Working Party 5D	7 to 16 October 2025	COMPLETE
ITU-R Working Party 4A, 4B and 4C and Study Group 4	15 October to 7 November 2025	COMPLETE
ITU-R Working Party 5A, 5B, 5C and Study Group 5	17 November to 2 December 2025	COMPLETE
NEW Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	19 November 2025	COMPLETE
ITU-R Working Party 5D	3 to 12 February 2026	COMPLETE
NEW IICA Regulators Roundtable (IIC Sydney Digital Communications and Media Forum)	10 to 12 February 2026	COMPLETE
NEW Indonesian Deputy Minister of Marine Resources	19 February 2026	ONGOING
NEW Mobile World Congress	2 to 5 March 2026	ONGOING

Meeting	FYSO timeframe	Progress/updates
APT Wireless Group Meeting 36 (AWG-36)	6 to 10 April 2026	ONGOING
ITU-R Working Party 4A, 4B and 4C and Study Group 4	22 April to 15 May 2026	ONGOING
ITU-R Working Party 5A, 5B and 5C	18 to 29 May 2026 (planned)	ONGOING
ITU-R Working Party 5D	26 May to 4 June 2026 (planned)	ONGOING

Note: Exact dates for some meetings are still to be finalised.

Sunsetting instruments 2025–26

Sunsetting instrument	Consultation timing	Due to sunset	Progress	Updates
Radiocommunications (Qualified Operators) Determination 2016	Q4 2025	1 April 2026	COMPLETE	Consultation undertaken 11 December 2025 to 11 February 2026.
Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2016	Q1 2026	1 October 2026	ONGOING	Consultation to be undertaken Q1 2026.
Radiocommunications (Emergency Locating Devices) Class Licence 2016	Q1 2026	1 October 2026	DELAYED	Consultation to be undertaken Q2 2026. Delayed due to the need to further consider possible additional frequencies.