

Draft 2026–27 fees for services Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

Consultation paper

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Executive summary

The ACMA is Australia's regulator for telecommunications, broadcasting, radiocommunications, unsolicited communications and certain online content. As an Australian Government agency, we are required to define and implement, where feasible, charges for recovering the costs of our products and services, in accordance with the [Australian Government Charging Framework](#). The charging framework provides the overarching framework for government entities to plan, implement and review their charging activities.

We are required to prepare a Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) in accordance with the [Australian Government Cost Recovery Policy](#). This must be consulted on with industry stakeholders before implementing any new charges or changing to existing charges. A draft 2026–27 fees for service CRIS is attached for consultation on our radiocommunications, telecommunications and broadcasting services and activities that are subject to charging arrangements.

The draft fees CRIS proposes the following changes:

- an increase to existing charges for apparatus licences -transfer of a licence type under *the Radiocommunications Act 1992* (Radiocommunications Act)
- minor amendments to descriptions in Sections 13, 14 and 15 of the Radiocommunications (Charges) Determination 2022 (Radiocommunications Determination) for renewals, reflecting the administrative charges for instalment payments of certain apparatus licences
- a decrease in telecommunications charges associated with the use of the Numbering System under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Telecommunications Act) and the *Telecommunications Numbering Plan 2025* (Numbering Plan)

These changes are discussed in the [Issues for comment](#) section and reflected in Appendix A of the draft fees for service CRIS.

The draft fees for service CRIS have been updated to reflect the ACMA's financial and non-financial performance information.

This consultation paper does not pose specific questions. However, we welcome comment from interested stakeholders on the proposed changes, or any other issues relevant to the draft fees for service CRIS.

You can find details on how to make a submission in the [Invitation to comment](#) section at the end of this paper.

Issue/s for comment

Changes to existing radiocommunications charges

- **Apparatus licences – transfer of a licence (see Schedule 1, Part 2, Table 2 (item 2.2.4) of the Radiocommunications Determination)**

The comprehensive review undertaken by the ACMA to assess the requirements of each of its current activities has resulted in revisions to the underlying business processes and the corresponding ACMA staffing effort required to provide the services.

Table 1: Proposed increase to existing radiocommunications apparatus licence charges

No	Charge type	Current description	Current charge	New charge	Reason/notes	Appendix A reference
1	Apparatus licences – transfer of a licence type	Considering an application under section 131AA of the Radiocommunications Act for the transfer of an apparatus licence, and transferring it (if applicable)	\$100	\$108	The updated charge reflects a slight increase in the processing time to assess licence transfers.	26

- **Apparatus licences – renewals (see Schedule 1, Part 2, Table 2 (item 2.2.1) of the Radiocommunications Determination)**

Minor changes to descriptions are proposed to sections 13, 14 and 15 of the Radiocommunications Determination to clarify that administrative charges for instalment payments of certain apparatus licences, including public telecommunications service (PTS) licences, are \$4 per licence. No change to charges is proposed. These amendments ensure that the Determination accurately reflects current administrative practice and the cost basis for instalment-related processing.

Table 2: Proposed changes to the description of existing radiocommunications charges for apparatus licence

No	Charge type	Current description	New description	Current charge	Reason/notes	Appendix A reference
1	Apparatus licences – renewals	<p>Considering an application under section 129 of the Radiocommunications Act for the renewal of an assigned apparatus or a non-assigned apparatus licence that does not include a renewal statement or a renewal application period statement, and renewing it (if applicable), where the application for renewal is made no later than 60 days after the expiry of the licence:</p> <p>(a)for a fixed receive licence – for each frequency assigned for the purpose of reception</p> <p>(b)for a broadcasting licence for the operation of a broadcast service station – per licence</p> <p>(c)for a fixed licence (point to point (self-coordinated) station) – per spectrum access</p> <p>(d)for a fixed licence (point to point (5.8 GHz band) station) – per spectrum access</p>	<p>Considering an application under section 129 of the Radiocommunications Act for the renewal of an assigned apparatus or a non-assigned apparatus licence that does not include a renewal statement or a renewal application period statement, and renewing it (if applicable), where the application for renewal is made no later than 60 days after the expiry of the licence:</p> <p>(a)for a fixed receive licence – for each frequency assigned for the purpose of reception</p> <p>(b)for a broadcasting licence for the operation of a broadcast service station – per licence</p> <p>(c)for a fixed licence (point to point (self-coordinated) station) – per licence</p> <p>(d)for a fixed licence (point to point (5.8 GHz band) station) – per licence</p>	\$4	Minor change to description for clarity. No change proposed to charge.	23

No	Charge type	Current description	New description	Current charge	Reason/notes	Appendix A reference
		<p>(e)for an amateur licence (amateur beacon station) or an amateur licence (amateur repeater station) – per licence</p> <p>(f) for a PTS licence (PMTS Class B) – per spectrum access</p> <p>(g)for a PTS licence (PMTS Class C) – per licence</p> <p>(h)for a space receive licence or defence receive licence – per spectrum access</p> <p>(i) for any other assigned licence – for each frequency assigned for the purpose of transmission</p> <p>(j) for any other non-assigned licence – per licence.</p> <p>Note: Subsection 129(1) of the Radiocommunications Act specifies circumstances in which an application for renewal is deemed to have been made.</p>	<p>(e)for an amateur licence (amateur beacon station) or an amateur licence (amateur repeater station) – per licence</p> <p>(f) for a PTS licence (PMTS Class B) – per licence</p> <p>(g)for a PTS licence (PMTS Class C) – per licence</p> <p>(h)for a space receive licence or defence receive licence – per spectrum access</p> <p>(i) for any other assigned licence – for each frequency assigned for the purpose of transmission</p> <p>(j) for any other non-assigned licence – per licence.</p> <p>Note: Subsection 129(1) of the Radiocommunications Act specifies circumstances in which an application for renewal is deemed to have been made.</p>			

Changes to existing telecommunications charges

- **Numbers under Numbering Plan – (see Schedule 1, Part 2, Table 2 (item 2.1,2.2,2.3) of the Telecommunication (Charges) Determination 2022 (Telecommunications Determination))**

There are changes to telecommunications charges related to use of the Numbering System, which is operated under contract with ZOAK for the allocation of numbers, registration of carriage service providers and Enhanced Rights of Use applicants under the Numbering Plan.

The number of transactions processed through the Numbering System has been substantially higher than the forecast volumes on which the current fee levels were based, resulting in higher revenue than forecasted. The Australian Government cost recovery policy states that expenses for an activity (the costs involved in providing it) must be aligned with revenue (the income generated through charges for it) on a regular basis (for example, over the activity's business cycle). Consistent with this, the ACMA proposes to reduce the transaction fees to \$10 per transaction. This fee is calculated to achieve cost neutrality by the end of the business cycle for this activity, that is, by the end of the current Numbering Services contract in August 2027. Arrangements after this date, including the costs of any new contract, may lead to an increase of fees for numbering services after August 2027.

Table 3: Proposed changes to existing telecommunication charges

No	Charge type	Current description	Current charge	New charge	Reason/notes	Appendix A reference
1	Numbers under Numbering Plan	Making an application mentioned in paragraph 457(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act for the allocation of a number otherwise than in accordance with an allocation system determined under section 463 of the Telecommunications Act. (1) For an application made under Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the numbering plan for allocation of one or more standard units of geographic numbers.	1) \$57	1) \$10	The decrease is required to address higher than expected revenue under the Numbering Services contract.	79

No	Charge type	Current description	Current charge	New charge	Reason/notes	Appendix A reference
		<p>(2) For an application made under Part 3 of Chapter 6 of the numbering plan for allocation of one or more geographic numbers.</p> <p>(3) For any other application made under the numbering plan for allocation of a number.</p>	<p>2) \$57 3) \$0</p>	<p>2) \$10 3) \$0</p>		
2	Numbers under Numbering Plan	Making an application under subsection 113(1) of the Numbering Plan for registration of a carriage service provider under section 114 of the Numbering Plan.	\$57	\$10	The decrease is required to address higher than expected revenue under the Numbering Services contract.	80
3	Numbers under Numbering Plan	Registering to use the electronic system, made available by the ACMA, for EROU applicants to apply with a registered carriage service provider under section 63 of the Numbering Plan for the initial allocation of an unassigned unallocated smartnumber, and for EROU-holders to manage their enhanced rights of use.	\$57	\$10	The decrease is required to address higher than expected revenue under the Numbering Services contract.	81

Changes to legislative instruments

The legal instruments in Table 4 set out our charges for services. We propose to amend these, where relevant, to implement the revised charges and changes identified above.

Table 4: Legislative instruments under which we operate

Determination	Made under
Radiocommunications (Charges) Determination 2022	Subsection 60(1) of the <i>Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005</i>
Radiocommunications (Digital Radio Multiplex Transmitter Licence – Application Fee) Determination 2022	Paragraphs 102C(2)(b) and 102D(2)(b) of the <i>Radiocommunications Act 1992</i>
Telecommunications (Charges) Determination 2022	Subsection 60(1) of the <i>Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005</i>
Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) (Application) Determination 2022	Subsection 9(1) of the <i>Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997</i>
Broadcasting (Charges) Determination 2017	Subsection 60(1) of the <i>Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005</i>

In addition to amendments to the fees, other minor consequential amendments to the instruments may be made to implement the fee changes.

Invitation to comment

Making a submission

We invite comments on the issues set out in this consultation paper and the attached draft fee CRIS.

- [Online submissions](#) can be made by uploading a document. Submissions in PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format are preferred.
- Submissions by post can be sent to:
The Manager
Revenue, Cost Recovery and Reporting Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616

The closing date for submissions is **COB, Tuesday 19 May 2026**.

Consultation enquiries can be emailed to costrecoveryteam@acma.gov.au.

Publication of submissions

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