

# **Five-year spectrum outlook 2025–30: annual progress report**

## For the 2025–26 work program

JULY 2026

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# Five-year spectrum outlook 2025–30: annual 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 annual progress report outlines our progress from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 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 experienced delays due to new items of work, consideration of additional feedback or emerging complexities associated with existing work. In light of stakeholder feedback, we will reconsult on revised planning options for the 1800 MHz and 2 GHz bands outside of spectrum-licensed areas and have delayed the review of the 1.5 GHz band. We have decided to cease our work on a broad licensing mechanism for land mobile stations on certain VHF maritime channels by emergency services organisations due to insufficient demand and will focus our efforts on identifying a longer-term licensing arrangement for the current trial participant.

We are also continuing to consider matters relating to the 2 GHz mobile-satellite service (MSS) allocation, including those arising from feedback from the Q3 2025 consultation on technical framework and allocation design, market and technological complexities and the rapid rate of change in the industry.

We 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 releasing the final FYSO 2026–31, which we anticipate will occur in October 2026. Establishing each FYSO enables vital engagement with industry and the community as we set and maintain Australia’s spectrum management priorities.

## Band-planning activities

| Planning stage    | Frequency band/s                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | FYSO timeframe                                                                        | Progress | Updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monitoring</b> | 600 MHz (617–698 MHz)<br>3.3 GHz (3300–3400 MHz)<br>4 GHz (4400–4990 MHz)<br>13 GHz (12.75–13.25 GHz)<br>40 GHz (37–43.5 GHz)<br>46 GHz (45.5–47 GHz)<br>47 GHz (47.2–48.2 GHz)<br>Bands being studied for a possible IMT identification under WRC-27 agenda items 1.7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4400–4800 MHz</li> <li>• 7125–8400 MHz</li> <li>• 14.8–15.35 GHz.</li> </ul> | 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.<br><br>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) | 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.<br><br>Further work depends on global developments and domestic needs. | 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)                                                    | Q2 2026: release options paper.<br><br>Q3 2026: release outcomes paper and begin implementation.                                                                                                                                                                                    | DELAYED  | Recognising stakeholder feedback that the review of this band should be de-prioritised compared to other projects, including 1800 MHz/2 GHz remote area planning, we have decided to not progress this review within FY2026–27 to allow resources to be directed towards other priorities. |
|                        | 1800 MHz and 2 GHz bands outside of spectrum-licensed areas                | Q1 2026: release outcomes paper and implement changes (including to RALIs) as required.                                                                                                                                                                                             | DELAYED  | In light of stakeholder feedback to our October 2024 consultation and the developing interest in using these bands for direct-to-device services, we will reconsult on revised planning options in Q4 2026.                                                                                |

| Planning stage | Frequency band/s                               | FYSO timeframe                                                                                                                                                            | Progress | Updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Implementation | 1.9 GHz<br>(1880–1920 MHz)                     | Q4 2025: consult on arrangements for rail services and indoor short-range WBB in the 1.9 GHz band.                                                                        | COMPLETE | <p>Consultation paper <a href="#">released</a> in December 2025.</p> <p>An outcomes paper was <a href="#">released</a> in July 2026.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                | 2 GHz MSS<br>(1980–2010 MHz and 2170–2200 MHz) | Q1 2026: consult on allocation instruments (subject to the outcomes of the Q3 2025 further <a href="#">consultation of allocation, licensing and technical matters</a> ). | ONGOING  | <p>In the draft FYSO 2026–31, we suggested that we may consult on the allocation instruments in Q2 2026 and commence the allocation in Q4 2026. The satellite D2D market and technology continues to undergo rapid change. The ACMA is continuing to consider submissions received from its Q3 2025 consultation, alongside the rapidly changing satellite D2D market and technology landscape, and will provide further information about allocation timing in due course.</p> <p>In determining outcomes in the long-term public interest, the ACMA will consider a range of factors, including encouraging competition in the band, spectrum efficiency and consumer access to services and devices, the latter in the context of the introduction of the Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO). The ACMA will also take into account decisions made on spectrum use in international jurisdictions which may impact on the Australian market, particularly in regard to device availability.</p> |

| Planning stage | Frequency band/s               | FYSO timeframe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Progress | Updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | Upper 6 GHz<br>(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, including potential guard bands and definition of licence 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<br>(1980–2005/<br>2170–2195<br>MHz) | Further consultation on allocation and licensing design and technical framework matters. | Q2 2026<br>(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, | ONGOING  | In the draft FYSO 2026–31, we suggested that we may consult on the allocation instruments in Q2 2026 and commence the allocation in Q4 2026. The satellite D2D market and technology continues to undergo rapid change. The ACMA is continuing to consider submissions received from its Q3 2025 consultation, alongside the rapidly changing satellite D2D market and technology landscape, and will |

|  |  |  |  |                                   |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  | subject to further consideration. |  | <p>provide further information about allocation timing in due course.</p> <p>In determining outcomes in the long-term public interest, the ACMA will consider a range of factors including encouraging competition in the band, spectrum efficiency and consumer access to services and devices, the latter in the context of the introduction of the Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO). The ACMA will also take into account decisions made on spectrum use in international jurisdictions which may impact on the Australian market, particularly in regard to device availability.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Optimising established planning frameworks

| Planning area       | Project priorities                                                                                                       | FYSO timeframe                                         | Progress | Updates                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Broadcasting</b> | Vary several solus licence areas in NSW and Vic <sup>1</sup> to enable AM to FM conversions.                             | Ongoing: consultation conducted as needed.             | ONGOING  | Hamilton LAP <a href="#">variation</a> finalised on 14 May 2026.<br><br>Horsham LAP <a href="#">consultation</a> undertaken 15 May to 12 June 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 <a href="#">finalised</a> on 4 December 2025.                                                                    |
|                     | Vary several competitive licence areas in NSW, Vic and ACT <sup>2</sup> to enable AM to FM conversions.                  | Ongoing: consultation conducted as needed.             | ONGOING  | Deniliquin LAP variation <a href="#">finalised</a> 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.                                                                                                    |
| <b>Satellite</b>    | 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.                                                                                                                  |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Low interference potential devices (LIPD)</b>                   | Monitor developments.                                                                                                                                               | Ongoing                                                                                               | ONGOING  | The <a href="#">Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2025</a> is generally updated every 18–24 months.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Intelligent Transport Systems</b>                               | Monitor developments in cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS).                                                                                          | Ongoing                                                                                               | ONGOING  | Continuing to monitor developments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Spectrum planning, assignment and coordination requirements</b> | Review our apparatus licence assignment and coordination requirements to ensure their currency and consistency with current technologies and operational practices. | Ongoing                                                                                               | ONGOING  | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Review of spectrum licence technical frameworks</b>             | 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 have issued updated 700 MHz band spectrum licences.</p> <p>We commenced a TLG in October 2025 which is considering changes to the 2.5 GHz spectrum licence technical framework. A consultation paper on proposed changes to the 2.5 GHz spectrum licence technical framework was released in June 2026.</p> |

| Planning area                           | Project priorities                                                    | FYSO timeframe                                                                | Progress        | Updates                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Higher-power<br/>6 GHz band RLAN</b> | Consider approaches to permit standard power RLANs in the 6 GHz band. | Q4 2025: release discussion paper focussing on AFC enabled higher power RLAN. | <b>COMPLETE</b> | <p><a href="#">Discussion paper</a> released on 5 November 2025, closed on 30 January 2026.</p> <p>Complete with further consultation pending.</p> |

## Licensing and licensing systems

| Work area                                                                             | Project priorities                                                                                                                                  | FYSO timeframe | Progress | Updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Expiring spectrum licences (ESLs)</b>                                              | Release stage 4, including preferred views and response to stage 3 submissions.                                                                     | Q4 2025        | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Preferred views and a response to submissions</a> published on 17 December 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                       | Consultation on ESL application and decision-making process.                                                                                        | Q4 2025        | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 17 December 2025 to 27 February 2026. We published the ESL application and decision-making framework in May 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                       | Additional consultation on our approach to pricing spectrum subject to the ESL process.                                                             | Q4 2025        | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 17 December 2025 to 27 February 2026. Our <a href="#">preferred views on pricing</a> were published on 20 May 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Maritime regulatory arrangements – portable and mobile land mobile radio (LMR)</b> | Consult on arrangements to facilitate specified LMR portable and mobile terminal use on maritime VHF channels for emergency services organisations. | Q4 2025        | CLOSED   | With only one trial participant, and no indication of sufficient demand to justify investigating a broader licensing solution, we will focus on identifying a longer-term licensing arrangement for the current participant and will no longer be consulting on this item. We invite other emergency services organisations to contact us directly if they have an interest in these arrangements. |
| <b>Merger reform</b>                                                                  | Consult on amendments to the <a href="#">Radiocommunications (Trading Rules for Spectrum Licences) Determination 2023</a> .                         | Q4 2025        | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 14 to 28 November 2025. Mandatory notification requirements commenced on 1 January 2026. Find more information about merger reform on the <a href="#">ACMA website</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Pricing

| Project priorities                                                             | FYSO timeframe | Progress | Updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Update the total annual <a href="#">EME component</a> amount for 2025–26.      | Q3 2025        | COMPLETE | After <a href="#">consultation</a> , we updated the EME component as proposed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Implement the annual update of taxes using the population-based methodology.   | Q1 2026        | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 27 October to 1 December 2025. Outcome published on 5 February 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Spectrum Pricing Review implementation - 520 MHz to 5 GHz band pricing review. | Q2 2026        | ONGOING  | The ACMA published a <a href="#">consultation paper</a> on price reforms for 2.69 GHz to 5 GHz band on 27 October 2025, the outcome of which was to expand the review to cover the 520 MHz to 5 GHz band. We have since published a <a href="#">consultation paper</a> on price reform proposals for the expanded 520 MHz to 5 GHz review which closes on 24 August 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 <a href="#">Equipment Safety Pledge</a> 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         |
| 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         |

| Meeting                                                                                   | FYSO timeframe                 | Progress/updates |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 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         |
| <b>NEW</b> Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications                       | 19 November 2025               | COMPLETE         |
| ITU-R Working Party 5D                                                                    | 3 to 12 February 2026          | COMPLETE         |
| <b>NEW</b> IICA Regulators Roundtable (IIC Sydney Digital Communications and Media Forum) | 10 to 12 February 2026         | COMPLETE         |
| <b>NEW</b> Indonesian Deputy Minister of Marine Resources                                 | 19 February 2026               | COMPLETE         |
| APT Wireless Group Meeting 36 (AWG-36)                                                    | 6 to 10 April 2026             | COMPLETE         |
| ITU-R Working Party 4A, 4B and 4C and Study Group 4                                       | 22 April to 15 May 2026        | COMPLETE         |
| ITU-R Working Party 5A, 5B and 5C                                                         | 18 to 29 May 2026              | COMPLETE         |
| ITU-R Working Party 5D                                                                    | 27 May to 5 June 2026          | COMPLETE         |

## Sunsetting instruments 2025–26

| Sunsetting instrument                                                                              | Consultation timing | Due to sunset  | Progress | Updates                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Radiocommunications (Qualified Operators) Determination 2016</a>                       | Q4 2025             | 1 April 2026   | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 11 December 2025 to 11 February 2026. |
| <a href="#">Radiocommunications (Aircraft and Aeronautical Mobile Stations) Class Licence 2016</a> | Q1 2026             | 1 October 2026 | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 9 June 2026 to 21 July 2026.          |
| <a href="#">Radiocommunications (Emergency Locating Devices) Class Licence 2016</a>                | Q1 2026             | 1 October 2026 | COMPLETE | <a href="#">Consultation</a> undertaken 9 June 2026 to 21 July 2026.          |