Brendon Agpasa
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3 May 2026

Manager, Spectrum Licensing Policy
Australian Communications and Media Authority
via online submission at: https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2026-03/draft-five-year-spectrum-outlook-2026-31

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: Draft Five-Year Spectrum Outlook 2026–31

Brendon Agpasa welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the consultation draft of the Five-Year Spectrum Outlook 2026–31 and the 2026–27 work program.

I appreciate that the ACMA's Five-Year Spectrum Outlook (FYSO), updated annually, provides the latest developments in areas including broadcast spectrum, satellite services, band planning, and more.

The key focus areas of my submission include:

- **Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO):** This will require mobile network operators to ensure that baseline mobile coverage (SMS and voice) is reasonably available outdoors across Australia on an equitable basis. ACMA's projects will also support satellite direct-to-device connectivity.
- **Closing the Digital Gap for First Nations People:** Bridging the digital divide between First Nations people and non-Indigenous Australians by providing access to mobile phone and telephone services, community broadcasting licenses, internet services, radio and television services, and digital technology.
- **Broadcast Spectrum Developments:** A plan to secure the future of radio and free-to-air television services, which are significant to all Australians. This includes improving the delivery of broadcast planning priorities such as the AM-to-FM conversion program and supporting changes to television transmission arrangements in certain regional markets.
- **Expansion of Wireless Broadband Services:** Efforts to expand mobile and fixed broadband services, supporting future technologies like 6G and Wi-Fi.
- **Satellite Services:** The expansion of both exported international satellites to Australia and domestically imported satellites, which will cover radio, TV, voice, data, internet, and more. This follows the success of Optus and Telstra's efforts to extend satellite services.
- **Spectrum Sharing:** The 3550–3700 MHz band, also known as the Citizens' Band Radio Service under the Spectrum Access System, will be included in spectrum sharing initiatives.
- **New DAB+ and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) Licenses:** New licenses for national, commercial, community, narrowcast (LPON, HPON), narrowband (MF-NAS, VHF-NAS), and shortwave broadcasters, covering all areas of metropolitan, regional, and remote Australia, as part of the future delivery of radio services. Digital radio channel plans will be issued for these services.

- **Public Service Spectrum Needs:** Licenses between 2 MHz and 100 GHz will support a range of observing systems, including active and passive sensors, fixed and mobile systems, and other terrestrial and satellite services. Public service entities such as defence, national security, law enforcement, safety and emergency services, as well as scientific, meteorological, and transport services, will continue to have unique spectrum needs.

The work program also includes the following activities:

- **2 GHz MSS (1980–2010 MHz and 2170–2200 MHz)** and **Upper 6 GHz (6585–7100 MHz):** These have been implemented.
- **600 MHz Band Trials:** Permanent trials of DVB-T2 technologies to deliver 4K ultra-high-definition formats. Additionally, free-to-air TV broadcasters are increasingly delivering services online, and demand for online services continues to rise with the DVB-I standard.
- **Radio and TV Broadcasting Transitions:** Radio broadcasters are planning to increasingly deliver their services online, with demand for online services continuing to rise. The new DAB-IP standard is expected to be implemented by 2027–28. The new DVB-T2 standard is expected to be implemented by 2027–28. The 4 GHz (4400–4990 MHz) band will allocate services for fixed-satellite, fixed, and mobile services, as well as 5G mobile and wireless internet services.
- **AM-to-FM Conversions:** A range of license areas in NSW, VIC, and ACT will undergo variations to enable ongoing AM-to-FM conversions.
- **Expanded Radio and TV Coverage:** Proposed variations to Australian radio and TV license area plans aim to improve and extend coverage into overlapping and adjacent areas. This includes the expansion of services such as Rebel FM, The Breeze, Flow FM, Vision Christian Radio, and ABC Local Radio into regional, remote, sub-metropolitan, and rural areas across NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, NT, and TAS. Coverage will also extend to commercial stations like 3HA FM Hamilton, 3WM Horsham, Mixx FM Horsham and Hamilton, Triple M Limestone Coast and SAFM Mount Gambier, community station Connect FM Bordertown, and TV services including ABC, SBS, and WIN Television South Australia into additional regions of western districts of Victoria such as Edenhope, Nelson, Dartmoor, Apsley, Goroke, Kaniva, and Casterton.
- **Satellite Planning:** Efforts to coordinate internationally to enhance spectrum use for satellite communications and space research services, including the development of new satellite communication systems and the ongoing operational support of Australian-filed satellite networks.
- **Amateur Radio Licenses:** Streamlining and improving amateur radio class licenses to support operators in radio, audio, and communications.

In conclusion, upon the successful completion of the Draft Five-Year Spectrum Outlook 2026–31 and the 2026–27 work program consultation, I advocate for continued funding from the Federal Government to support key community services, including addressing the digital gap for First Nations communities, advancing broadcast spectrum developments, satellite services, band planning, spectrum sharing, amateur radio, many other important sectors, and other priorities during this financial year.

Yours sincerely,



Brendon Agpasa