

Commonwealth Games Report released

ACMA has released a report reviewing its involvement in the staging of the Melbourne 2006 XVIII Commonwealth Games. The report provides a snapshot of the arrangements made by ACMA to support the successful staging of the Games and will be useful in preparing for future major events.

The report covers ACMA's activities before and during the Games to meet its obligations under its service agreement with the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation (M2006). Some of the key tasks were to identify available spectrum to meet the needs of M2006 and the host broadcaster, liaise with communications service providers, seek agreements to operate in spectrum primarily used for broadcasting and defence purposes, and comply with heightened security arrangements.

ACMA was also responsible for inspection of venues and ensuring communications equipment and cabling used at the Games met appropriate standards, and investigating electromagnetic interference with communications. Visitor information before and during the Games was also provided. The outcome of ACMA's work was reflected in the low number of radiocommunications interference tasks reported before and during the Games.

The cost for providing services to M2006 was fixed at \$1.238 million, with the value of M2006's licensing fees for the project estimated at \$250,000. The total amount of \$1.488 million was included within the \$290 million Budget allocation for the Games. ACMA was reimbursed for its expenditure in accordance with the milestones and payment schedule of the service agreement.

The report identifies key steps for planning major events:

- raise awareness before the event through a visitor information page on the website and publish an information brochure for distribution to international organisations involved in the event and overseas media
- hold regular progress meetings with the event organising body, the host broadcaster and the security and emergency services and maintain ongoing consultation with relevant parties to identify spectrum requirements

- appoint specialised staff to manage event-related frequency assigning to ensure coordination of radiofrequency spectrum requirements and increase the efficiency of the allocation process
- employ strategies to meet the anticipated high level of demand for spectrum including placing an embargo on segments of the land mobile band, making agreements for short-term use of spectrum designated for defence, broadcasting and amateur use for the period of the event and identifying contractors who have licensed radio networks already in place
- operate an equipment testing centre during the pre-event week to deal with the influx of overseas equipment
- participate in test events and venue familiarisation before the event to provide staff training and the opportunity to evaluate procedures and technical equipment and negotiate an appropriate level of accreditation to provide access to all venues at the event for staff involved and
- provide mobile service teams to support teams at venues and position staff involved in the event at strategic locations to enhance their ability to respond to interference incidents, and apply a consultative approach wherever possible in resolving interference issues.

The success of ACMA's participation was due to the technical expertise and professionalism of its staff and the cooperation of M2006 and other organisations involved in supporting the Games.

The *Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Report* is on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au.



AgQuip shows increased compliance

Inspection of equipment at the recent AgQuip exhibition showed an increase in the number of exhibiting companies complying with electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) regulations. Many companies spoken to by ACMA inspectors at last year's exhibition were now complying with labelling requirements.

AgQuip is Australia's largest agricultural equipment event, held annually in Gunnedah, New South Wales. With around 2,500 companies displaying their products this year, at 1,800 sites over 26 hectares, AgQuip provides an important opportunity for ACMA inspectors to check equipment compliance and distribute information about the regulatory regimes it administers.

At these events, ACMA can identify new farming machinery and devices that are not yet compliant with regulations or standards for (EMC) and human exposure to electromagnetic radiation, and for radiocommunications and telecommunications equipment.

The major non-compliance issue this year was with spark ignition motors on equipment primarily imported from the United States, such as lawn mowers and chainsaws. Some electronic equipment for installation in tractors to assist ploughing in straight lines did not display the C-Tick label to indicate compliance with EMC standards. In most instances, devices on sale that were found not to

have the correct compliance labelling were withdrawn from sale after discussion with the exhibitors. Equipment exhibited for display purposes only and not for sale does not require labelling.

Bob Duesbury from ACMA's Coffs Harbour Operations Centre, New South Wales Region, attended this year's exhibition.

