

MUDGEES RADIO SERVICE TRANSLATOR TO MOVE

ACMA is proposing that a translator for the Mudgee, New South Wales commercial radio service 2GEE move from the existing site on Baldy Peak in the Cumber Melon Range to a new site at Mt Bocoble, Kandos.

The licensee of 2GEE, Mudgee Broadcasting Company Pty Ltd, requested the move.

EXTENDED LICENCE AREA

The company also proposed an extension of the 2GEE licence area to cover council boundary changes (the Mid-Western Regional Council was proclaimed on 26 May 2004).

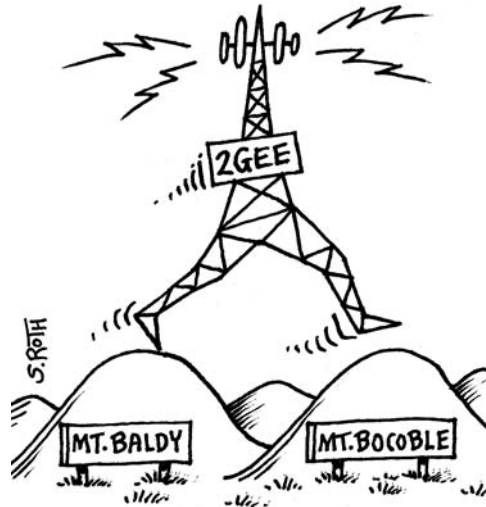
ACMA considers that this proposal would effectively double the existing licence area, with significant signal overlap in surrounding commercial radio licence areas. It is

therefore proposed that the licence area extend to the south to cover Pyramul, Illford and areas along the Castlereagh Highway. Pyramul and Illford currently receive no licensed commercial radio service.

This solution would avoid signal overspill into the Bathurst and Lithgow licence areas and would reduce overlap with the Remote Commercial Radio North Eastern licence area.

COMMENTS

The closing date for comments was 10 February 2006.



The draft variation to the Mudgee licence area plan and explanatory paper are on ACMA's website, (go to Latest > For Comment > Broadcasting > Draft licence area plans (LAPs)), or telephone 1800 810 241 for a copy.

New scheme to reimburse cost of developing consumer-related codes

Industry bodies and associations which develop consumer-related telecommunications industry codes may apply to have their code development costs reimbursed under a new scheme to begin on 23 March 2006.

ACMA will administer the scheme, which is subject to new provisions in the *Telecommunications Act 1997* which take effect on 23 March.

THE PROCESS

Representative telecommunications industry bodies or associations intending to develop a consumer-related code may apply to ACMA for a declaration that they are eligible for reimbursement of code development costs. Once a declaration of eligibility is made, the eligible body or association has two years to develop the code, submit it to ACMA for registration and to have its costs reimbursed. Reimbursement will not depend on whether a code is ultimately registered.

Details of the proposed scheme are in the discussion paper, released on 23 December 2005, *Reimbursement of Costs of Development of Consumer-related Industry Codes* (available on the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au; Home > Latest > Issues for comment > Current issues).

SUBMISSIONS

The closing date for submissions was 6 February 2006.

Review of anti-spam legislation

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan, is conducting a review of the *Spam Act 2003*. Australia's Spam Act applies to commercial electronic messages, including spam sent via email, SMS, instant messaging and multimedia messaging. The review must consider the operation of the Spam Act, as well as the relevant parts of the Telecommunications Act that provide ACMA with necessary enforcement powers.

Announcing the release of the issues paper on 13 December 2005, Senator Coonan pointed to changes in the use of spam. ACMA has identified that spam sent by SMS is an increasing concern for consumers.

ISSUES PAPER

The issues paper is on the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts website, at www.dcita.gov.au/spam.

The closing date for submissions was 1 February 2006.

New numbers for VoIP services?

ACMA is seeking submissions on proposed changes to the Telecommunications Numbering Plan to accommodate voice over the internet protocol (VoIP) services.

The proposals will introduce a new service definition, 'emerging communications service', to accommodate VoIP and other new services, and a new number range: 0550.

Geographic-based numbers will continue to be made available for VoIP services that are a close substitute for a traditional phone service and meet the requirements for a local service.

CONSUMER AWARENESS

Service providers have primary responsibility for consumer awareness and explaining clearly the features of the services they offer. ACMA will provide guidelines to assist carriage service providers in

selecting the correct service type for their VoIP service.

IMPLICATIONS

Introduction of the new service type has implications for customer equipment and dialling. Business telephone systems such as PABX and Commander may require reprogramming to enable calls to be made on the new number range, and telephone users using the new numbers will be unfamiliar with them.

COPIES AND SUBMISSIONS

The proposed changes to the Telecommunications Numbering Plan are on the ACMA website, (go to Phones > Numbering > Numbering Plan); or telephone (03) 9963 6872.

The closing date for submissions is 14 February 2006. As part of the consultation process, submissions will be made available to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.