

Number ranges proposed for trials of new telecommunications services

ACMA is proposing to introduce two new number ranges to facilitate trials of new telecommunications services. The new trial number ranges give carriage service providers the flexibility they need to trial services and develop new products for customers.

The proposed variation to the *Telecommunications Numbering Plan 1997* will introduce two new number ranges to be used by carriage service providers for trials of new telecommunications services. The proposed trial service numbers are:

- 10-digit numbers in the 1290 0 range for the supply of inbound services, and
- 10-digit numbers in the 0570 0 range for the supply of outbound services.

Inbound services enable a call to be made to a number but not from that same number. In practice, inbound services are set up by interface with another telephone number, for example a fixed phone or a mobile phone handset. Examples of inbound numbers include 13, 1300 and 1800 numbers.

Outbound services enable calls to be made to and received from the same telephone number.

The proposed variation specifically prohibits the use of trial service numbers for access to age-restricted content services and for the supply of age-restricted text services that are or would be classified as MA15+ or R18+ by the Classification Board.

Currently, an amendment to the Numbering Plan is required to specify numbers for the new type of service before a trial can commence. The proposed changes will accommodate trials for service types not covered in the Numbering Plan, which will

mean that delays while changes to the Numbering Plan are made can be avoided.

The variation will allow numbers for trials to be allocated on a time-limited basis under Chapter 6 of the Numbering Plan. A carriage service provider may apply for an extension of the allocated time, either until another date or for an indefinite period, enabling a smooth transition from the trial service to permanent service if the trial proves to be successful.

The trial service numbers will be specified as not shared and will be allocated to carriage service providers under the temporary allocation provisions of the Numbering Plan. These numbers will not be available for trials of services that are already prescribed in the Numbering Plan.

The proposed changes to the Numbering Plan were developed by ACMA in consultation with its Numbering Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives of telephone companies, state and federal governments and organisations representing consumer and user interests.

The draft variation and accompanying discussion paper are on ACMA's website. Submissions close on 30 September 2007.

Renewal of 2CCH Gosford's community radio licence being considered

ACMA is considering a renewal application the licence of community radio service 2CCH Gosford for a further five years. 2CCH broadcasts as Hits n Country 94.1 FM. The licensee, Central Coast Broadcasters Ltd, provides a community radio broadcasting service in the Gosford licence area with country music and sport as the community interest. The current licence expires on 21 November 2007.

Community broadcasting licences are issued for five years. The procedures for renewing a community broadcasting licence are set out in sections 90 and 91 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. ACMA must have regard to the same matters that it considers when allocating new community broadcasting licences. These matters are:

- the extent to which the proposed service would meet the existing and perceived future needs of the community within the licence area of the proposed service
- the nature and diversity of the interests of that community
- the nature and diversity of other broadcasting services (including national broadcasting services) available within that licence area
- the capacity of the applicant to provide the proposed service
- the undesirability of one person being in a position to exercise control of more than one community broadcasting licence that is a broadcasting services bands licence in the same licence area, and

- the undesirability of the Commonwealth, a state or territory or a political party being in a position to exercise control of a community broadcasting licence.

ACMA may refuse to renew a community broadcasting licence if, having regard to these matters, it considers that it would not allocate a licence to the licensee.

ACMA writes to a community broadcasting licensee 58 weeks before the licence expires, requesting that it submit an application to renew its licence no later than 52 weeks before

the licence expiry. ACMA has discretion in whether it will conduct a renewal inquiry, the form it should take and what it will consider in an inquiry.

ACMA invited submissions from members of the public on the renewal application on 30 August 2007 and submissions closed on 21 September.