

New ACMA appointments confirmed

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, recently announced new Member appointments to the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Mr Geoff Luther and Ms Jennifer McNeill have been appointed new part-time ACMA Members (with five-year terms), while foundation Members Ms Johanna Plante and Mr Rod Shogren have been reappointed.

ACMA Chairman Chris Chapman welcomed the appointments: 'Ms Plante and Mr Shogren have been very engaged ACMA Members since the regulator was formed in 2005 and have made significant contributions to its deliberations. Mr Luther and Ms McNeill will provide valuable complementary expertise within the Authority.'

Senator Conroy said that the reappointments are '... among the first group to be completed under the Australian Government's new arrangements for the merit-based selection of Australian Public Service agency heads and statutory office-holders', and will '... provide continuity and experience as ACMA prepares for future challenges in the converged communications environment'.

Mr Luther has a wealth of valuable experience in spectrum regulatory matters and radiocommunications. He acted as a full-time Member of the former Australian Communications Authority from 2003–05 and in 2006 was awarded the Public Service Medal for his work on the development of a comprehensive spectrum allocation system for Australia.

Ms McNeill will bring a strong regulatory and consumer perspective to ACMA. She is currently special counsel to DLA Phillips Fox and was a Commissioner at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission from 2002–07, including a term as Commissioner with primary responsibility for consumer protection.

Mr Chapman also thanked retiring Member Professor Gerrard Anderson, who was unavailable for reappointment following the expiry of his term on 30 June, for his significant contribution to ACMA's work program.

The appointments took effect on 1 July 2008. As a consequence of the appointments, ACMA is governed by an Authority comprised of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, one full-time Member, five part-time Members and one Associate Member.

More information on Authority Members is available on the ACMA website at <www.acma.gov.au> (go to About ACMA: ACMA organisation > ACMA overview > Authority Members).

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JENNIFER McNEILL



GEOFF LUTHER