

ACMA releases the 2009 Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan

ACMA has released the new 2009 Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan to the radiocommunications community and the Australian public.

Australian spectrum allocation arrangements are embodied at their broadest level in one statutory instrument known as the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan (the Spectrum Plan). The Spectrum Plan divides the Australian radiofrequency spectrum into a number of frequency bands and specifies the general purpose for which each may be used. The Spectrum Plan is intended to:

- provide a basis for management of the radiofrequency spectrum in Australia
- inform and educate radiocommunication users and the public about the various types of services that can be operated in each frequency band, and the conditions attached to their operation
- reflect Australia's obligations as a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- provide details of international frequency allocations agreed by the ITU for the three world regions, Regions 1, 2 and 3, as per the ITU Radio Regulations.

The Spectrum Plan is reviewed on a regular basis and updated after every ITU World Radiocommunication Conference. These conferences are held at four-yearly intervals,

the latest in Geneva, Switzerland, in October–November 2007.

The new Spectrum Plan is based on the spectrum arrangements developed by the ITU and incorporates changes made to international frequency allocations at the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference.

The Spectrum Plan is divided into two chapters. Chapter 1 is the general information section, which provides an introduction to the

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basis of the Spectrum Plan, broad guidance in its use, and information relevant to the international framework from which it is developed. Chapter 2 is the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan itself, and includes the table of frequency band allocations for the three world regions and Australia. Its content binds ACMA in its decisions on the use of the radiofrequency spectrum in Australia.

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provided information on the release of the Spectrum Plan for public comment. The article discussed how the changes provide new opportunities for international mobile telecommunication, space research activities, radio astronomy, mobile-satellite services, and sharing arrangements between space and future terrestrial services. During the public comment period, ACMA received eleven submissions from a number of key stakeholders addressing a number of issues relating to, and making corrections to, the Spectrum Plan. In response to those submissions, ACMA made a number of editorial changes, mainly corrections to references in the table of frequency band allocations in Chapter 2.

The Spectrum Plan can be downloaded at no

cost from the ACMA website <www.acma.gov.au>. A companion wall chart illustrating how the spectrum is allocated is also available on the website.