

The discussion paper focuses on clarifying existing rules in the Telecommunications Numbering Plan 1997, and also looks at whether, and how, the regulatory cost could be reduced for new entrants and smaller CSPs, including VoIP CSPs, obtaining and managing geographic numbers.

Proposed amendment to the rules for managing geographic numbers

ACMA has released a public discussion paper seeking public and industry comment on proposals to amend existing arrangements for managing phone numbers.

The discussion paper focuses on clarifying existing rules in the Telecommunications

Numbering Plan 1997, and considers whether to:

- allow geographic numbers to be used by VoIP out-only services, and asks whether these services should be required to use a unique number in the same way as they are permanently associated with other services
- tighten the rules for using geographic numbers so that they can be used only in the standard zone unit or area of allocation
- introduce a new process that would enable readier identification of carrier service providers (CSPs) using geographic numbers inappropriately.

The discussion paper also looks at whether, and how, the regulatory cost could be reduced for new entrants and smaller CSPs, including VoIP CSPs, obtaining and managing geographic numbers. One option to achieve this

would be to make it possible for them to obtain geographic numbers individually. This differs markedly to existing arrangements, which require a CSP to obtain a minimum block of 100 or 1,000 numbers from ACMA, or to approach a CSP with already-allocated numbers.

The new arrangements could be implemented by a large CSP on behalf of industry, or by an independent body set up by industry or ACMA.

Comment is sought on the issues raised by this paper, but is also welcome on other related issues. The discussion paper is available in pdf (188 kb) or Microsoft Word (252 kb) formats on the ACMA website <www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311572>.

Responses to this discussion paper are called by 28 February 2009, and may be made by email to <numbering@acma.gov.au>

or by post to:

Telecommunications Licensing, Numbering and Subcables Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box 13112

Law Courts, Melbourne VIC 8010

Electronic submissions in Microsoft Word or rich-text format are preferred.

Please direct any questions about this discussion paper to Suzanne Howard: (03) 9963 6954 or <suzanne.howard@acma.gov.au>.

