

and a revitalised formal consultative committee (the Radiocommunications Consultative Committee), ACMA has resolved to make its spectrum work program more transparent to the industries that rely on spectrum and also to demonstrate its 'first actionable steps' to emerging demand pressures.

This is a key goal of the draft five-year spectrum outlook—to publish, and to keep current by regular updates, ACMA's understanding of emerging demand pressures, as well as to give an indication of ACMA's forward work program for addressing those pressures. The program is of necessity indicative and, as a disclaimer, is subject to three things:

- resources
- government (or ministerial) priorities
- unanticipated changes in the environment.

I make no apology for the disclaimer, which merely acknowledges the realities. But to ensure industry as far as possible enjoys the regulatory certainty required to facilitate investment decisions, we have committed to keep the document current through annual updates and to consult each time before we finalise it. The result, I hope, will be an unprecedented shared understanding of the pressures for change building

in the spectrum environment and of the regulator's indicative thinking (on a more iterative basis) about how to respond.

All of this, of course, is no substitute for detailed consultation on individual issues before decisions are taken that affect players in the spectrum space. Rather, it is something in addition, something new—the beginning, I hope, of a much more open discourse about what the priority issues are in spectrum regulation.

Transparency about priorities invites greater transparency about methodology and underlying philosophy. To this end, ACMA has also articulated in draft form its *Spectrum Management Principles*, a document not intended to supplant the legislative objectives that govern ACMA's exercise of its powers and discretions, but which should go some way to explain how we will approach those objectives.

Indeed, one of the proposed principles is that we will do our work with appropriate transparency and opportunity for consultation.

But this conference is not simply about ACMA initiatives—in framing the agenda, we have sought to balance government voices telling you about what we are doing with industry voices, so that information flows both ways. We have aimed for

topicality, and I would like to think that most of the major issues in terms of regulatory change affecting use of spectrum today have gotten a guernsey.

You will hear about analog television closure and the digital dividend, the digitisation of radio and I am hopeful we might hear something about another large issue that is quietly moving onto the agenda (namely, the expiry of the major spectrum licences that, for example, now carry the bulk of Australia's telephony).

Lastly, by way of a bit of serendipity, we have been able to align this event with the launch of two other major ACMA papers. The first is the initial discussion paper on the 400MHz land mobile issue.

The second is the release of the *Independent Review of Government Spectrum Holdings*, which represents a major contribution to spectrum policy-thinking in Australia and raises issues that go well beyond ACMA's remit to include not only the whole of the federal government but federal/state issues as well.

**The full text of Mr Chapman's speech is on the ACMA website at <[www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)> (go to About ACMA: News & media centre > Speeches).**

## Temporary community broadcasting licences allocated, May 2008

| State | Licence area     | Licensee   | Community served  | Frequency | Start    | Finish   | Allocated |
|-------|------------------|--|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Vic   | Bendigo RA2      | Goldfields Community Radio Cooperative Ltd           | General           | 89.5 MHz  | 13/05/08 | 12/08/08 | 05/05/08  |
| Vic   | Bendigo RA2      | Central Victorian Community Broadcasters Inc.        | General           | 89.5 MHz  | 13/05/08 | 12/08/08 | 05/05/08  |
| Qld   | Mossman RA2      | 4CCC Coral Coast Country Community Radio Inc.        | General           | 100.1 MHz | 16/05/08 | 15/05/09 | 13/05/08  |
| WA    | Bunbury RA3      | Harvey Mainstreet Inc.                               | General           | 96.5 MHz  | 20/05/08 | 19/05/09 | 13/05/08  |
| Vic   | Wodonga RA1      | Albury Wodonga Christian Broadcasters Inc.           | Christian         | 100.7 MHz | 21/05/08 | 20/11/08 | 15/05/08  |
| NSW   | Gosford RA1      | Coast Community Broadcasters Inc.                    | Country and sport | 94.1 MHz  | 22/05/08 | 21/11/08 | 20/05/08  |
| NSW   | Gosford RA1      | Radio Yesteryear Inc.                                | Music – nostalgia | 94.1 MHz  | 22/05/08 | 21/11/08 | 20/05/08  |
| Qld   | Cunnamulla RA1   | Cunnamulla Dreaming Aboriginal Corporation           | Aboriginal        | 99.7 MHz  | 29/05/08 | 28/05/08 | 23/05/08  |
| Qld   | Cairns RA2       | Smithfield Community Radio Association Inc.          | Youth             | 101.9 MHz | 01/06/08 | 31/05/09 | 26/05/08  |
| Vic   | Upper Murray RA1 | High Country Christian Broadcasters Association Inc. | Christian         | 94.9 MHz  | 07/06/08 | 06/06/09 | 27/05/08  |