



RADCOMMS09
DELEGATES NETWORKING
IN THE TASMAN LIGHT AREA AT
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
DURING RADCOMMS09 REGISTRATION ON 29 APRIL 2009



MALCOLM LONG, ACMA AUTHORITY MEMBER,
CONVENING RADCOMMS09 ON 29 APRIL 2009

RadComms09: ACMA and industry share perspectives

RadComms09, ACMA's third annual spectrum management conference held on 29 and 30 April 2009 at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, attracted over 210 delegates, including representatives from federal, state and local government, carriers and service providers, satellite operators, broadcasters, equipment manufacturers and retailers. Also in attendance were representatives of regional development boards, community organisations and internet service providers.

Conference presentations focused on contemporary topics in radiofrequency spectrum management. ACMA projects covered were:

- opportunity cost pricing
- technical frameworks
- the 400 MHz band
- digital switchover
- release of the 3.6 GHz band.

More than two-thirds of the presentations at RadComms09 were made by industry, consistent with ACMA Chair, Chris Chapman's intention that 'ACMA continues to seek a balance between government and industry perspectives, and we are looking for industry to take the opportunity

to present on issues rather than just having the regulator run the agenda'.

A welcome reception on the first night of the conference proved to be an effective informal networking opportunity for delegates and ACMA staff. The conclusion of each day featured a Q&A panel session, which generated a high level of audience participation and robust discussion on topical spectrum matters. Other conference highlights included presentations on digital radio and the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder project.

The theme of the conference was 'foundations for the future'. This was highlighted in Mr Chapman's address 'Disaster, triumph, evolution and innovation: Important lessons from the history of radiocommunications', which offered a glimpse into ACMA's willingness to learn from the past, embrace innovation and take a lead from industry triumphs to ensure the partnership of government and industry will secure for Australia the best outcome possible for our radiofrequency spectrum.

Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital

Economy, addressed the conference on the first day. The Minister highlighted, among other things, the importance of the National Broadband Network and the role it will play in the future of Australia, affirming that 'taking action today to create the foundations of our future wireless and fixed communications sectors, will help deliver better outcomes for industry, business and consumers in the years to come'.

The Minister also made special mention of other ACMA projects: 'I'm particularly pleased with the progress the Australian Communications and Media Authority has made in relation to the 3.6 GHz and 400 MHz bands.'

The conference fulfilled its aim of being a valuable opportunity for ACMA to consult and explore with industry a broad range of spectrum planning issues.

Copies of the presentations and podcasts from RadComms09, including the addresses from Mr Chapman and the Senator Conroy, are available on the ACMA website at

www.acma.gov.au/radcomms09.

For further information contact Lucy McGee on 02 6219 5345 or at lucy.mcgee@acma.gov.au.



ACMA appoints Brendan Byrne as General Manager of Legal Services Division

ACMA Chair, Chris Chapman, announced on 7 May the appointment of Mr Brendan Byrne as ACMA's new General Manager, Legal Services Division. Brendan will start with us at the end of June.

'Brendan will bring to ACMA's increasingly complex regulatory environment an excellent understanding of regulatory policy development, government and administrative law and a broad understanding of the corporate environment in the broadcasting and communications sectors,' Mr Chapman said. 'His expertise in regulatory policy and in commercial law will bring to ACMA fresh perspective in meeting the challenges of a converging environment and developing ACMA's exercise of its new and mid-tier powers.'

Mr Byrne was most recently General Counsel at ASIC from 2000 to 2008.

ACMA's Legal Services Division provides high quality legal advice and services to the Authority on operational areas and a wide range of other matters. In addition, the Legal Services Division gives legal assistance to ACMA's responsibilities in investigation and compliance matters, managing litigation, negotiating settlements, drafting commercial agreements and legislative and administrative instruments. The Division works closely with operational areas to develop sound policy proposals within an increasingly complex regulatory environment.