

3G mobile services closer for regional and remote Australia

Mobile telecommunications services throughout regional and remote areas of Australia will be vastly improved following the recent release of spectrum in 2 GHz band, which is used by mobile carriers to provide third generation (3G) mobile services.

The ACMA invited applications for radiocommunications licences in the 2 GHz band during May 2010 and received requests for additional spectrum for mobile telecommunications services at hundreds of sites throughout regional and remote Australia. In the first round of licensing, the ACMA will issue licences to Optus for 972 sites, a list of which can be found on the ACMA's website at www.acma.gov.au.

'I am delighted by the high level of demand from industry for additional spectrum in the 2 GHz band in regional and remote Australia,' said Chris Chapman, Chairman of the ACMA.

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A second round of licensing will occur after assessment of Telstra's application for multiple sites has been completed.

The release of spectrum for these services follows interest expressed by industry in obtaining additional spectrum in regional and remote areas of Australia.

Site applications by both Optus and Telstra should lead to a significant increase in the availability of 3G mobile phone services in regional and remote Australia. ☎

For more information on the 2 GHz band release, visit the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For licensees & industry: Service & technical requirements > Radiofrequency spectrum: Frequency assignment & coordination > Latest developments > PTS licences in the 2 GHz band in regional and remote areas of Australia).



Cunnamulla in south-west Queensland is one of many towns to benefit from the recent release of spectrum in the 2 GHz band.

Photograph by Arthur Mostead.