



ACMA implements new amateur radio services arrangements

ACMA has introduced several important reforms to the regulation of amateur radio services. These include a series of changes to amateur licence conditions and the introduction of a class licence to authorise amateurs visiting from overseas. To streamline services for amateur licensees, ACMA will also delegate certain statutory functions and administrative services associated with amateur licensing to the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA).

These arrangements finalise the outcomes of the Review of Amateur Services Regulation, which was conducted by the former Australian Communications Authority in 2003–04. The review was conducted primarily in response to changes made to Article S25 of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (the Radio Regulations). Certain elements of the review were also conducted in response to Australian regulatory and policy considerations.

AMATEUR LICENCE CONDITIONS

Under the new arrangements and in accordance with international standards, key amateur licence conditions will be amended to lift restrictions on third-party communications and amateur access to public telecommunications networks. Amateurs will also be allowed greater freedom to operate during disasters, in

recognition of the valuable contribution amateurs make to the community during these times. Changes to amateur licence conditions are provided for by the *Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Amendment Determination 2008 (No. 1)* and the *Radiocommunications (Qualified Operators) Amendment Determination 2008 (No. 1)*. These instruments came into effect on 19 February 2008.

CLASS LICENCE FOR VISITING AMATEURS

ACMA has issued the *Radiocommunications (Overseas Amateurs Visiting Australia) Class Licence 2008* to authorise the operation of visiting amateur stations. This class licence came into effect on 14 February 2008. The Visiting Amateurs Class Licence will substantially reflect the apparatus licensing arrangements currently

applicable to visiting amateurs without the need to issue individual licences.

The introduction of a class licence for visiting amateurs will allow Australian amateurs to enjoy reciprocal arrangements in place under the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). This will allow greater freedom for Australian amateurs to operate when they travel to CEPT countries.

DELEGATION AND OUTSOURCING ARRANGEMENTS

ACMA will delegate the issue of Amateur Operator Certificates of Proficiency to the WIA, in addition to the examination services currently provided by the WIA. ACMA will also ask the WIA to make recommendations on the management of amateur call signs. This will include recommendations on the allocation of two-letter call signs. As the WIA is a not-for-profit organisation, it will be able to provide these services to the amateur community at a low cost.

ACMA identified the WIA as a suitable provider after an Expression of Interest process was conducted in October 2007. ACMA and the WIA are working to put arrangements in place to provide these services to the amateur community.

Further information on the new arrangements can be obtained by emailing industry.partnerships@acma.gov.au.

Do Not Call Register reaches milestone

The Do Not Call Register reached another milestone in February—it has checked over half-a-billion telephone numbers against the register since it commenced operation in May 2007. On average, the register operator checks more than 2.5 million telephone numbers each day. Lists range in size from one number to millions of numbers.

Consumer telephone number registrations continue to increase. The register now holds over 2.15 million telephone numbers.

Statistics on the register's operation are now available on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For the public: Content & advertising > Telecommunications: Do Not Call Register – Information for the public > Do Not Call Register statistics).

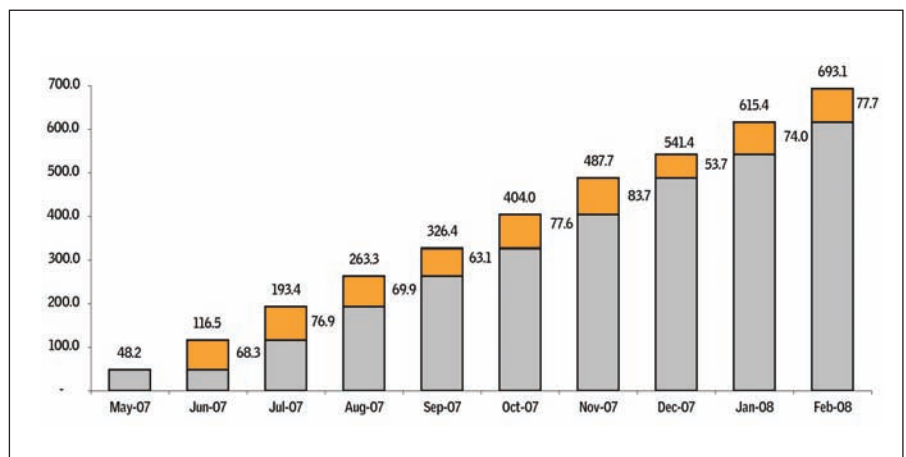


FIGURE 3: TOTAL NUMBERS SUBMITTED FOR WASHING (MILLIONS) (CUMULATIVE)