

Release of more 3.6 GHz spectrum continues the ACMA's commitment to WAS

The ACMA's commitment to providing broadband wireless access services (WAS) for regional and remote areas of Australia continues with the recent release of more spectrum in the 3.6 GHz band.

In October 2009, the ACMA announced the release of spectrum in the 3575–3700 MHz (the 3.6 GHz) band for WAS. The release aims to address the demand for WAS in regional and remote areas of Australia in the short to medium term.

The first application window—for spectrum in parts of south-east South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and southern New South Wales—opened in November 2009. The ACMA received 113 applications and allocated 107 licences.

Licence allocations in Area 2, the Cape York region, which includes western Queensland and inland northern New South Wales, are currently being completed. Fifty-four applications for spectrum were received in these areas.

The ACMA has now opened the application window for Area 3, covering parts of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and northern South Australia (see map).

'This latest release of spectrum in the 3.6 GHz band will further support the deployment of broadband wireless access services in these regions and is consistent with the ACMA's decision to make this spectrum available in regional and remote areas of Australia,' said Chris Chapman, Chairman of the ACMA.

The 10-day application window for point-to-multipoint transmitter licences for the areas identified for inclusion in Area 3 opened on 12 July 2010. 📶

Complete details on the allocation and application process, including the boundary zones for Areas 1, 2 and 3, relevant technical documentation and application forms, are available on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to For Licensees & Industry: Service & Technical Requirements > Frequency Assignment & Coordination > Latest Developments > Release of the 3.6 GHz band in regional and remote areas of Australia).

For further information on the allocation process, contact Julie Lyons on 02 6219 5554 or via email at lais@acma.gov.au.

The OTC process explained

For areas where the demand for WAS is expected to be limited and sufficient spectrum is expected to be available, the ACMA is applying the over the counter (OTC) process. The three areas subject to this process have been released one at a time. Area 1 covers parts of south-east Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and southern New South Wales; Area 2 covers parts of Queensland and northern New South Wales and Area 3 covers parts of Western Australia, Northern Territory and northern South Australia.

The allocation process for Area 2 commenced in March 2010. After assessing the 54 applications for WAS received by the ACMA in this area, 39 fixed point-to-multipoint apparatus licences were issued. Of the 15 applications that were not issued apparatus licences, 14 did not meet the coordination criteria as set out in the Radiocommunications Assignment and Licensing Instruction FX19 (RALI FX19). One application is currently pending. At this stage, the ACMA is in the process of developing the framework for the price-based allocation (PBA) process to allocate apparatus licences in the pre-defined PBA areas of the 3.6 GHz band.

Figure 1: Pre-defined geographic area for parts of Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia (Area 3).

- Exclusion areas
- Price-based allocation areas
- Administrative allocation Area 3

