

From: David Goggin <David.Goggin@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 May 2019 3:07 PM
To: Bannister, Stuart
Cc: Nevio Marinelli
Subject: Status of the ACMA's review of the 1.5 GHz band [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Stuart,

As discussed during our phone conversation on 21 May 2019, in the ACMA's draft [Five Year Spectrum Outlook for 2019-2023](#) (which defines our work priorities for the coming year and work on the horizon), we are proposing to release an options paper for 1427-1518 MHz (1.5 GHz) band in Q4 2019-20. Though I note based on submissions reviewed so far this may be delayed to the next financial year. The final version of the FYSO is planned for release sometime around late June to early July 2019. It is updated on a yearly basis, so you can monitor proposed timeframes for the planning of the 1.5 GHz band through this process.

When the options paper is released, it will canvas views on a range of different planning options for the band (noting work on developing these options has not commenced). This will include consideration of incumbent services as well as international and domestic developments of relevance. The review of arrangements is being driven by the international identification of the 1.5 GHz band for wireless broadband services (e.g. 5G mobile communications).

In the event a decision is made to clear incumbent fixed links from the band in favour of the introduction and auction of spectrum licences (area-wide licences similar to property rights), licensees would be given a statutory minimum 2 year period to re-locate from the band or cease operations (refer to section 153G of the [Radiocommunications Act 1992](#)). Longer periods can also be defined, for example in the re-allocation of the 3.6 GHz band incumbent licensees in regional areas were given a period of 7 years to re-locate. The length of the re-allocation period is something that would also be consulted on.

Unfortunately until the ACMA consults on the issue and final decisions are made, I cannot provide any more detail on if and when any changes to the band would occur. What I can say is that given international and domestic interest in using the band for wireless broadband it is only a matter of time before arrangements are reviewed. This is extremely likely to occur within the next 7 years and impact fixed links that are licensed to Powercor for operation in the band. If a decision is made to clear fixed links from the band then based on current proposed consultation times and statutory re-location requirements, the fastest this would occur is approximately 3 years from now. I note that in accordance with section 153G of the Radiocommunications Act, the ACMA is required to consult with affected parties as part of any proposed re-allocation process. Therefore you will be alerted to any proposal to do this and have an opportunity to provide your views before any decisions are made.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards

David Goggin
Spectrum Planning and Engineering Branch

Australian Communications and Media Authority

T +61 2 6219 5380 F +61 2 6219 5256

E david.goggin@acma.gov.au

www.acma.gov.au



NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.