2025

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXPOSURE DRAFT

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Bill 2025

No. , 2025

(Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts)

A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to telecommunications, and for related purposes

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telec	ommunications, and for related purposes
The l	Parliament of Australia enacts:
1 Sho	rt title
	This Act is the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Act 2025.
2 Con	nmencement
	(1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.
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A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this Act	The day after this Act receives the Assent.	Royal
Note:	This table relates only to the provisior enacted. It will not be amended to dea this Act.	
Infor	nformation in column 3 of the table mation may be inserted in this column be edited, in any published version of	nn, or information in it
Schedules		
repea conce	lation that is specified in a Schedule led as set out in the applicable items erned, and any other item in a Sched ding to its terms.	s in the Schedule

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Schedu	le 1—Amendments
Competiti	on and Consumer Act 2010
1 At the e	nd of paragraph 151BC(2)(c)
Add	"or universal outdoor mobile obligation".
Telecomm	nunications Act 1997
2 Section	7
Inser	t:
	universal outdoor mobile obligation has the same meaning as in
	the Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999.
	agraph 27(5)(e)(i) of Schedule 3
-	r "universal service obligation", insert "or universal outdoor mobile
	gation".
	nunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999
4 Section	4
After	r:
	The universal service regime established by this Act is to be
	phased out and replaced by alternative contractual arrangements.
inser	t:
	A universal outdoor mobile regime is also established. The
l	main object of the universal outdoor mobile regime is to

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1 2	ensure that mobile coverage is reasonably available outdoors to all people in Australia on an equitable basis.
3	5 Subsection 5(2)
4	Insert:
5	available, in relation to a designated mobile telecommunications
6	service, has the meaning given by subsection 12H(2).
7 8	designated mobile telecommunications service has the meaning given by section 8BB.
9 10	<i>general Australian outdoor mobile coverage area</i> has the meaning given by subsections 8D(2) and (3).
11	mobile coverage has the meaning given by subsection 12H(1).
12	mobile telecommunications service: if:
13	(a) an end-user can use a carriage service while moving
14	continuously between places; and
15	(b) the customer equipment used for or in relation to the supply
16	of the service is not in physical contact with any part of the
17 18	telecommunications network by means of which the service is supplied; and
19	(c) the service is supplied to the public;
20	the service is a mobile telecommunications service.
21	outdoor mobile coverage area has the meaning given by
22	subsections 8D(1) and (3).
23	outdoor mobile obligation has the meaning given by section 12G.
24	outdoors does not include:
25	(a) in a building, vehicle, aircraft or vessel; or
26	(b) underground or underwater.
27	primary universal outdoor mobile provider has the meaning given
28	by section 12J.
29 30	universal outdoor mobile obligation has the meaning given by section 12F.

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	outdoor mobile provider.
6 Section	on 8
At	fter "a universal service regime" (first occurring), insert "and a
	niversal outdoor mobile regime".
7 Section	on 8
At	fter:
	The universal service regime is to be phased out and replaced by alternative contractual arrangements.
ins	sert:
	The main object of the universal outdoor mobile regime is to
	ensure that mobile coverage is reasonably available outdoors
	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis.
8 After	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis.
In	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA sert:
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA asert: ands of designated mobile telecommunications services
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA asert:
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA sert: ands of designated mobile telecommunications services 1) Each of the following is a kind of designated mobile telecommunications service: (a) a mobile telecommunications service that enables an end-use
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA sert: Inds of designated mobile telecommunications services 1) Each of the following is a kind of designated mobile telecommunications service: (a) a mobile telecommunications service that enables an end-use to communicate, by means of voice calls, with other
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA sert: ands of designated mobile telecommunications services 1) Each of the following is a kind of designated mobile telecommunications service: (a) a mobile telecommunications service that enables an end-use to communicate, by means of voice calls, with other end-users;
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA sert: Inds of designated mobile telecommunications services 1) Each of the following is a kind of designated mobile telecommunications service: (a) a mobile telecommunications service that enables an end-use to communicate, by means of voice calls, with other end-users; (b) a mobile telecommunications service that:
In:	to all people in Australia on an equitable basis. section 8BA sert: ands of designated mobile telecommunications services 1) Each of the following is a kind of designated mobile telecommunications service: (a) a mobile telecommunications service that enables an end-use to communicate, by means of voice calls, with other end-users;

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1 2 3	(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(c), the Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine a kind of mobile telecommunications service.
4	9 After section 8C
5	Insert:
6	8D Outdoor mobile coverage areas
7 8 9 10	 (1) Subject to subsection (3), an <i>outdoor mobile coverage area</i> is: (a) a geographical area within Australia; or (b) any area of land; regardless of size.
11 12 13	(2) Subject to subsection (3), the <i>general Australian outdoor mobile coverage area</i> is the outdoor mobile coverage area consisting of Australia.
14 15 16	(3) An area determined under subsection (4) is not, and is not part of, an <i>outdoor mobile coverage area</i> or the <i>general Australian outdoor mobile coverage area</i> .
17 18	(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine an area.
19	Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia
20 21 22 23 24	(5) The Minister is taken to determine under subsection (4) of this section, on the commencement of this section, the RQZ, within the meaning of the <i>Radiocommunications (Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia) Frequency Band Plan 2023</i> as in force from time to time.
25 26	(6) Despite subsection (4), the determination that the Minister is taken to make is not a legislative instrument.
27 28	(7) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, revoke the determination that the Minister is taken to make.

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1 2	10 Paragraphs 12A(2)(a) and (2C)(a) Omit "and", substitute "or".
3	11 Subsections 12A(2D) and (2E) Repeal the subsections.
5 6	12 Section 12B Repeal the section.
7 8	13 After Division 2 of Part 2 Insert:
9	Division 2A—Universal outdoor mobile obligation
10 11	Subdivision A—What is the universal outdoor mobile obligation?
12	12F What is the universal outdoor mobile obligation?
13 14 15 16	(1) For the purposes of this Act, the <i>universal outdoor mobile obligation</i> is the obligation to ensure that mobile coverage is reasonably available outdoors to all people in Australia on an equitable basis.
17 18 19 20	(2) The obligation mentioned in subsection (1) includes the obligation to supply each kind of designated mobile telecommunications service such that the service is reasonably available outdoors throughout Australia.
21 22 23 24 25	 (3) An obligation does not arise under subsection (1) or (2): (a) in relation to a location that is not in the general Australian outdoor mobile coverage area; or (b) in the circumstances (if any) determined under paragraph (4)(a).
26 27	(4) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine:(a) circumstances for the purposes of paragraph (3)(b); or

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	(b) matters to which regard must, or must not, be had in determining whether mobile coverage or a designated mobile telecommunications service is reasonably available outdoors for the purposes of this Act.
12G	What is an outdoor mobile obligation?
	(1) Unless the Minister makes a determination under subsection (2) of this section, the obligation referred to in subsection 12F(1) is the <i>outdoor mobile obligation</i> .
	(2) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine the <i>outdoor mobile obligations</i> by dividing the universal outdoor mobile obligation into 2 or more outdoor mobile obligations.
	Example: The Minister could divide the universal outdoor mobile obligation by reference to each kind of designated mobile telecommunications service.
	(3) The determination must also specify, in respect of each outdoor mobile obligation, what must be supplied or done in order to fulfil the outdoor mobile obligation.
12H	Availability of designated mobile telecommunications services outdoors
	(1) <i>Mobile coverage</i> is available outdoors at a location to the extent to which each kind of designated mobile telecommunications service is available outdoors at that location.
	(2) A designated mobile telecommunications service is <i>available</i> outdoors at a location if the service is supplied such that an end-user who is outdoors at that location can use the service.
Sub	division B—Primary universal outdoor mobile providers
12J	Determination of primary universal outdoor mobile providers
	(1) The Minister may determine in writing that a specified carrier or carriage service provider is a <i>primary universal outdoor mobile</i>

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1 2 3		Note: The Minister may determine more than one primary universal outdoor mobile provider in respect of a particular outdoor mobile obligation for a particular outdoor mobile coverage area.
4	(2)	In exercising the Minister's powers under this section in relation to
5		an outdoor mobile obligation, the Minister must ensure that, at all
6		times occurring on or after the day mentioned in subsection
7		12L(6), each point in the general Australian outdoor mobile
8		coverage area is within an outdoor mobile coverage area for which
9 10		there is at least one primary universal outdoor mobile provider in respect of that outdoor mobile obligation.
11	(3)	In deciding whether to make a determination that a person is a
12		primary universal outdoor mobile provider, the Minister is limited
13		to considering factors that are relevant to achieving the objects of
14		this Act.
15	(4)	If the Minister determines under this section that a person is a
16		primary universal outdoor mobile provider, the Minister must give
17		a copy of the determination to:
18		(a) the person; and
19		(b) the ACMA.
20	(5)	A determination under this section (including a determination
21		varying or revoking a determination the Minister is taken to make
22		under this section because of subsection 12L(1)) is a legislative
23		instrument.
24		Note: A determination that the Minister is taken to make under this section
25		because of subsection 12L(1) is not a legislative instrument (see
26		subsection 12L(2)).
27	12K Oblig	gations of primary universal outdoor mobile providers
28	(1)	If there is only one primary universal outdoor mobile provider for
29	· /	an outdoor mobile coverage area in respect of an outdoor mobile
30		obligation, that outdoor mobile obligation, so far as it relates to that
31		area, is imposed on that primary universal outdoor mobile
32		provider.

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1 2 3	(2) If there are 2 or more primary universal outdoor mobile providers for an outdoor mobile coverage area in respect of an outdoor mobile obligation, that obligation, so far as it relates to that area:
4 5	(a) is imposed on each of those primary universal outdoor mobile providers individually; and
6	(b) to avoid doubt, must be complied with by each of those
7	primary universal outdoor mobile providers irrespective of
8 9	whether another of those universal outdoor mobile providers complies with the obligation.
10 11	(3) To avoid doubt, this section does not apply before there are any primary universal outdoor mobile providers.
12	12L Default primary universal outdoor mobile providers
13	(1) The Minister is taken to determine under section 12J, on the day
14	mentioned in subsection (6) of this section, that each of the
15	following is a primary universal outdoor mobile provider, in
16	respect of each outdoor mobile obligation, for the general
17	Australian outdoor mobile coverage area:
18	(a) Telstra Limited;
19 20	(b) SingTel Optus Pty Limited;(c) TPG Corporation Limited.
21	(2) Despite subsection 12J(5), the determination that the Minister is
22	taken to make is not a legislative instrument.
23	(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a person mentioned
24	in paragraph (1)(a), (b) or (c) unless that person is a carrier or
25	carriage service provider.
26	(4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, this section does not limit
27	the Minister's powers under section 12J.
28	(5) A determination:
29	(a) made under section 12J; and
30	(b) in force immediately before the day mentioned in
31	subsection (6) of this section;
32 33	is repealed by force of this subsection on the day mentioned in subsection (6).

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1	When is the determination taken to be made?
2 3 4 5	 (6) Subject to subsection (7), the day is: (a) unless a day is determined under subsection (9)—the default day; or (b) an earlier day determined under subsection (9).
6 7	(7) For the purposes of this section, and subject to subsection (8), the <i>default day</i> is 1 December 2028.
8 9 10 11	(8) Before the day mentioned in subsection (6), the Minister may, by notifiable instrument, postpone the default day by 12 months. The Minister may postpone the default day under this subsection up to 3 times.
12 13	(9) Before the default day, the Minister may, by notifiable instrument, determine a day for the purposes of paragraph (6)(b).
14 15 16	12M Former universal outdoor mobile provider may be required to provide information to current universal outdoor mobile provider
17	Scope
118 119 220 221 222 223 224 225 226	 (1) This section applies if: (a) the Minister determines under section 12J that a carrier or carriage service provider (the <i>current provider</i>) is a primary universal outdoor mobile provider for an outdoor mobile coverage area in respect of an outdoor mobile obligation; and (b) another person, who is or was a universal outdoor mobile provider for the outdoor mobile coverage area in respect of the outdoor mobile obligation, is determined to be a former provider under subsection (4) of this section.
27 28 29 30 31	 (2) This section also applies if: (a) either: (i) the Minister revokes or varies a determination under section 12J so that a person (the <i>former provider</i>) ceases to be a universal outdoor mobile provider for an

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1 2	outdoor mobile coverage area in respect of an outdoor mobile obligation; or
3	(ii) a person (the <i>former provider</i>) otherwise ceases to be a
4	universal outdoor mobile provider for an outdoor
5	mobile coverage area in respect of an outdoor mobile
6	obligation; and
7	(b) another person (the <i>current provider</i>), who was also a
8	universal outdoor mobile provider in respect of the outdoor
9	mobile obligation, continues to be a universal outdoor mobile
10	provider for the outdoor mobile coverage area in respect of
11	that outdoor mobile obligation:
12	(i) if subparagraph (a)(i) of this subsection applies—after
13	the revocation or variation; or
14	(ii) if subparagraph (a)(ii) applies—after the cessation.
15	(3) Subsections (1) and (2) can apply before the determination,
16	revocation or variation under section 12J takes effect.
17	Former provider
1/	1 ormer provider
18	(4) The Minister may determine in writing that a person is a former
19	provider for the purposes of this section.
20	Requirement to give information
21	(5) The current provider may, in accordance with subsection (6), by
22	written notice given to the former provider, require the former
23	provider to give to the current provider specified information. A
24	notice of this kind cannot be given more than 6 months after:
25	(a) if subsection (1) applies—the later of the following days:
26	(i) the day on which the current provider became a
27	universal outdoor mobile provider;
28	(ii) the day on which the determination under section 12J
29	was made in respect of the current provider; or
30	(b) if subsection (2) applies—the day on which the former
31	provider ceases to be a universal outdoor mobile provider.

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1	(6) For the purposes of subsection (5):
2	(a) the specified information must be information that will assist
3	the current provider in doing something that the current
4	provider is or will be required or permitted to do by or under
5	a provision of this Part; and
6	(b) the notice must identify the doing of that thing as the purpose
7	for which the information is required; and
8	(c) the specified information must not be personal information
9	(within the meaning of the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i>) other than:
10	(i) the name, address, email address or mobile telephone
11	number of a customer to whom a designated mobile
12	telecommunications service is supplied; or
13	(ii) information relating to the entitlement of such a
14	customer to a particular pricing arrangement or kind of
15	pricing arrangement.
16	Note 1: If, for example, information about service location, or a customer's
17	name, address, email address or mobile telephone number, will assist
18 19	the current provider in fulfilling its obligation under section 12K, the former provider may be required to provide that kind of information.
20 21	Note 2: See also subsection (8), which allows the Minister to determine that a specified kind of information is information referred to in
22	paragraph (a) of this subsection.
22	(7) If a magningment made by a nation under subsection (5) is
23	(7) If a requirement made by a notice under subsection (5) is reasonable, the former provider must comply with the requirement
24 25	as soon as practicable after receiving the notice. However, if the
26 26	requirement is unreasonable, the former provider does not have to
20 27	comply with it.
27	comply with it.
28	(8) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, make a determination
29	to the effect that, either generally or in a particular case,
30	information of a kind specified in the determination is taken to be
31	information that will assist a person in doing a specified thing that
32	the person is or will be required or permitted to do by or under a
33	provision of this Part.
34	(9) If a former provider has been given notice of a requirement under
35	subsection (5), the ACMA may, in writing, direct the former
36	provider to comply with the requirement or with specified aspects

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1 2		f the requirement. The former provider must comply with the irection.
3 4 5	A	deciding whether to give a direction under subsection (9), the CMA must consider whether the requirement under absection (5) is reasonable.
6 7		C—Universal outdoor mobile obligation standards, enchmarks and rules
8	12N Standar	rds
9 10 11 12 13	to in do pi	he Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine standards be complied with by primary universal outdoor mobile providers a relation to any or all of the following matters relating to esignated mobile telecommunications services supplied, or roposed to be supplied, in fulfilment of the universal outdoor
14 15 16 17		nobile obligation: (a) the terms and conditions (whether or not relating to price or a method of ascertaining price) of the supply of a designated mobile telecommunications service;
18 19		(b) the reliability of a designated mobile telecommunications service;
20 21		(c) the quality of voice calls made and received using a designated mobile telecommunications service;
22 23		(d) the performance of a designated mobile telecommunications service that is a short message service;
24 25 26 27 28		(e) the maximum period within which a primary universal outdoor mobile provider must rectify a fault or service difficulty relating to a designated mobile telecommunications service following the making of a report by a customer about the fault or service difficulty;
29 30 31 32		(f) action which a primary universal outdoor mobile provider must take to address congestion affecting a telecommunications network the provider uses to supply a designated mobile telecommunications service;
33 34 35		(g) information a primary universal outdoor mobile provider must give to a customer of a designated mobile telecommunications service;

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1 2		(h) any other matter concerning the accessibility of a designated mobile telecommunications service.
3 4 5		Note: See also section 589 of the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> (instruments under this Act may provide for matters by reference to other instruments).
6 7	(2)	A determination under subsection (1) may be of general application or may be limited as provided in the determination.
8 9	(3)	Subsection (2) does not, by implication, limit subsection 33(3A) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> .
10 11 12	(4)	Standards determined under subsection (1) of this section may make provision for or in relation to a matter by conferring a power on the ACMA to make a legislative instrument.
13 14	(5)	Subsection (1) does not, by implication, limit the power to make rules under subsection 12R(1).
15		Compliance
16 17	(6)	A primary universal outdoor mobile provider must comply with a standard determined under subsection (1).
18	12P Perfo	rmance benchmarks—standards
19 20 21 22 23	(1)	The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine minimum benchmarks in relation to compliance by a primary universal outdoor mobile provider with a standard determined under section 12N. Note: See also section 589 of the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> (instruments
24 25		under this Act may provide for matters by reference to other instruments).
26 27 28	(2)	An instrument under subsection (1) of this section may be of general application or may be limited as provided in the instrument.
29 30	(3)	Subsection (2) does not, by implication, limit subsection 33(3A) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> .

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(4	Benchmarks determined under subsection (1) of this section may make provision for or in relation to a matter by conferring a power on the ACMA to make a legislative instrument.
	Provider must meet or exceed minimum benchmarks
(5	A primary universal outdoor mobile provider must meet or exceed a minimum benchmark determined under subsection (1).
12Q Per	formance benchmarks—other benchmarks
(1) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine minimum benchmarks that must be complied with by primary universal outdoor mobile providers in relation to the supply or proposed supply of a designated mobile telecommunications service to a customer in fulfilment of the universal outdoor mobile obligation.
	Note: See also section 589 of the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> (instruments under this Act may provide for matters by reference to other instruments).
(2	An instrument under subsection (1) may be of general application or may be limited as provided in the instrument.
(3) Subsection (2) does not, by implication, limit subsection 33(3A) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> .
(4	Benchmarks determined under subsection (1) of this section may make provision for or in relation to a matter by conferring a power on the ACMA to make a legislative instrument.
	Provider must meet or exceed other benchmarks
(5	A primary universal outdoor mobile provider must meet or exceed a minimum benchmark determined under subsection (1).
12R Rul	es
(1) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, make rules to be complied with by primary universal outdoor mobile providers in relation to designated mobile telecommunications services
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1 2		supplied, or proposed to be supplied, in fulfilment of the universal outdoor mobile obligation.
3 4 5		Note: See also section 589 of the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> (instruments under this Act may provide for matters by reference to other instruments).
6 7	(2)	Rules under subsection (1) may be of general application or may be limited as provided in the rules.
8 9	(3)	Subsection (2) of this section does not, by implication, limit subsection 33(3A) of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> .
10 11 12	(4)	Rules under subsection (1) may make provision for or in relation to a matter by conferring a power on the ACMA to make a legislative instrument.
13 14	(5)	Subsection (1) does not, by implication, limit the power to determine standards under subsection 12N(1).
15		Compliance
16 17	(6)	A primary universal outdoor mobile provider must comply with rules under subsection (1).
18	14 Section	n 73
19	Rep	eal the section, substitute:
20	73 Delega	ion by the Minister to the ACMA
21 22	(1)	The Minister may, in writing, delegate all or any of the Minister's functions or powers under this Part to the ACMA.
23 24		Note: Sections 34AA to 34A of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> contain provisions relating to delegations.
25 26 27	(2)	In performing a delegated function or exercising a delegated power, the ACMA must comply with any written directions of the Minister.
28		Sub-delegation by the ACMA
29	(3)	The ACMA may, in writing, delegate to:

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1		(a) a member of the ACMA; or
2		(b) an APS employee who is:
3		(i) a member of the staff of the ACMA; and
4		(ii) an SES employee or acting SES employee;
5		any or all of the functions or powers that have been delegated by
6		the Minister to the ACMA under subsection (1).
7	(4)	If the ACMA delegates to a person (the <i>second delegate</i>) a
8		function or power that has been delegated by the Minister to the
9		ACMA under subsection (1), then that function or power, when
10		performed or exercised by the second delegate, is taken for the
11		purposes of this Act to have been performed or exercised by the
12		Minister.
13	(5)	If the ACMA is subject to directions in relation to the performance
14	()	of a function, or the exercise of a power, delegated by the Minister
15		to the ACMA under subsection (1), then:
16		(a) the ACMA must give corresponding written directions to the
17		second delegate; and
18		(b) the ACMA may give other written directions (not
19		inconsistent with those corresponding directions) to the
20		second delegate in relation to the performance of that
21		function or the exercise of that power.
22	(6)	In performing a delegated function or exercising a delegated
23		power, the second delegate must comply with any directions of the
24		ACMA.
25	73A Deleg	gation by the Minister to SES employees in the Department
26	(1)	The Minister may, in writing, delegate all or any of the Minister's
27	· ·	functions or powers under this Part to an SES employee, or acting
28		SES employee, in the Department.
29 30		Note: Sections 34AA to 34A of the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> contain provisions relating to delegations.
31	(2)	In performing a delegated function or exercising a delegated
32	()	power, the delegate must comply with any written directions of the
33		Minister.

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