

Bureau of Meteorology Response to the Department of Communications and the Arts Commonwealth Held Spectrum Consultation Paper, May 2017

Introduction

The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) as a 24/7 operational public sector agency delivering high-public-value services in support of safety, security and economic productivity, and with explicit obligations under the *Meteorology Act 1955*, has a requirement for certainty in its ongoing access to certain frequency bands for both active and passive sensing applications, most of which will remain essentially unchanged for the foreseeable future. The Bureau's spectrum needs are largely met by long-term certainty of licences in predominantly internationally harmonised bands, and protected from levels of interference that would impact the effectiveness of the systems utilising these bands.

DRAFT PROPOSAL 1

The Bureau supports the establishment of an advisory committee as outlined in this proposal and wishes to actively participate as a member. The Bureau strongly supports the ACMA being an active contributor to the committee.

DRAFT PROPOSAL 2

The Bureau supports this proposal in principle, however its implementation will require further clarification.

DRAFT PROPOSAL 3

The Bureau does not hold spectrum in the context of Spectrum Licences, and has no anticipated need to do so in the future regardless of changes under the proposed new Act. Hence, the ability to trade spectrum is of no consequence to the Bureau. Sharing of spectrum used by Meteorological and Earth observations applications with other active services is usually not possible due to their unique nature and high sensitivity to degradation from interference. Actual circumstances and proposed sharing scenarios would need to be carefully studied and tested.