**Spectrum Review Submission – 20th June 2014**

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**Discussion**

Several recent experiences with regard to spectrum management has highlighted an issue that needs to be considered in the spectrum review.

* In June 2013 I attended a Conference in Paris sponsored by the French Finance Ministry with the title ‘Spectrum and Innovation’. Several of the presentations highlighted the key role spectrum *can* play in a nation’s innovation system. Several examples are:
	+ Spectrum played a pivotal role back in the mid 80’s in Europe when a harmonised band at 900MHz was agreed for what has become the global mobile technology standard GSM.
	+ Similar issues exist today for spectrum and innovation as for example spectrum for systems for ‘the Internet of things’ and spectrum for reliable (ie not class licenced) wireless transducers.
* To date spectrum has been confined to the industry silos of broadcasting and telecommunications which s increasingly curious given the pace of industry convergence. My observation in connection with the innovation perspective is that the very meaning of ‘experimental licence’ is very different between the Broadcasting Act and the Radio Communications Act where neither adequately address the role of spectrum to facilitate innovative use of spectrum.

**Consideration**

The terms of reference as drafted are sufficiently broad that they cover the spectrum and innovation issue as I have raised it.

My submission to the review is that when considering the review that the need for a spectrum management regime be common as possible across the broadcasting and telecommunications so as to facilitate convergence and supportive of innovative use of spectrum as part of maximising national benefit.

**Contact Details:**

My contact details are:

Professor Reg Coutts

Coutts Communications <http://www.couttscommunications.com>

PO Box 381 Hahndorf SA 5245

Mobile: 0414477766

E-mail: regcoutts@ozemail.com.au