

Space Industry Association of Australia

Spectrum Review Submission

The Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) acknowledges the magnitude of the challenges being presented to spectrum allocation authorities globally as ubiquitous mobility becomes the norm and not a dream for the distant future.

The SIAA would seek to make three key points – none radical but rather to add weight, we suspect, to the more detailed submissions of others. The points are:

- That those frequencies described as the ‘fingerprints of nature’ are vigorously protected;
- That the interests of satellite operators be taken into full account in the ongoing discussions about the future allocation of C band spectrum; and
- That satellite uplink and downlink frequencies that are essential for communications, GNSS and Earth observation satellites are identified, agreed internationally and protected from encroachment.

The environment is becoming rapidly more complex as competing demands for spectrum multiply. The SIAA suspects that a complex systems engineering approach will be necessary to identify and balance the current and anticipated future needs of all spectrum users. With regard to the spectrum needed for satellites, the weighting given to the importance of this spectrum must consider not just the sectional interests of satellite owners and operators, but the broader economic and community dependencies on secure and assured access to satellite systems. They have become, in effect, components of global critical infrastructure. Economies and societies would suffer rapid, negative impacts if satellite operations were to become unduly restricted or interfered, for any reason, including spectrum not being available with certainty for an extended period of time.