Development of the 26 GHz spectrum licence technical framework

Technical Liaison Group Consultation Paper

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# Version Control

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Comments** |
| Version 1.0 | Initial release |
|  |  |

# Introduction

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) develops a technical framework for every frequency band subject to spectrum licensing. Each framework is a collection of technical and regulatory conditions applicable to the use of radiocommunications devices in the spectrum-licensed band. The purpose of the technical framework is to define the technical conditions and constraints under which devices may be deployed and operated within the specified geographic area and frequency band of the licence.

Although the technical framework is *optimised* for the types of services or technologies that are most likely to be deployed in the band, it is intended to be *technology-flexible*. This means licensees can operate any type of radiocommunications device for any purpose, provided it complies with the technical framework relevant to the licence.

The ACMA commenced planning for wireless broadband service delivery in the 26 GHz band with a Spectrum Tune-up held in September 2017. In September 2018, we released an [options paper](https://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/options-for-wireless-broadband-in-the-26-ghz-band), which included details on the drivers for wireless broadband access to the band, international studies and trends and planning options for the band.

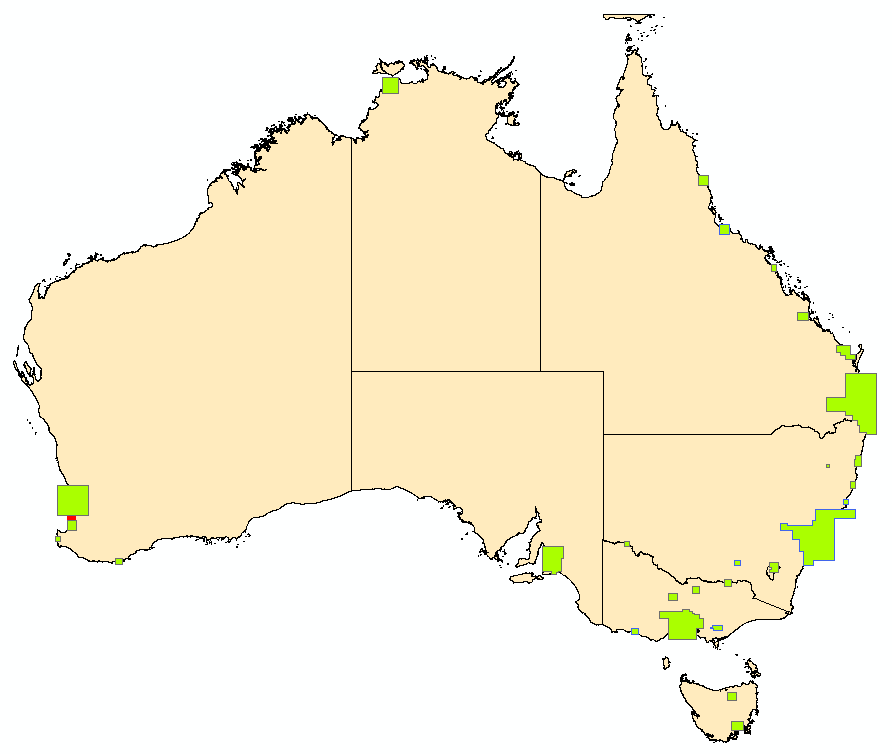
The ACMA also convened a *Working Group on Inter-service Coexistence* which drew membership from interested industry stakeholders. The purpose of this working group was to help inform stakeholder input on some of the technical issues canvassed in the options paper, specifically, how coexistence with satellite receivers in and adjacent to the 26 GHz band could be assured.

In April 2019, the ACMA released the [Future use of the 26 GHz band — planning decisions and preliminary views](https://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/options-for-wireless-broadband-in-the-26-ghz-band) paper (the decision paper). This paper outlined the ACMA’s planning decisions to introduce wireless broadband services using class, apparatus and spectrum licences in different parts of the 26 GHz band. Preliminary views on key licence conditions were also included in the decision paper, however it was noted that these conditions would be bedded down later as part of future consultation processes, such as this Technical Liaison Group (TLG) and routine consultation on updates to Radiocommunications Licensing and Assignment Instructions (RALIs) and class licences, as applicable.

Key decisions set out in the decision paper included how different parts of the band would be licensed to accommodate a range of use cases. One of these was that the frequency range 25.1-27.5 MHz was identified as a candidate for wide-area spectrum licensing, subject to ministerial agreement. Subsequently, this segment was recently reallocated for the issue of spectrum licences in defined regional and metropolitan areas (refer to Figure 1)[[1]](#footnote-2).

The purpose of this paper is to develop a technical framework for spectrum licences to be issued in that segment, which for the purposes of this paper will simply be termed ‘the 26 GHz band’. This paper proposes and seeks comment on a draft technical framework for these spectrum licences.

1. Area in the 26 GHz band re-allocated for the issue of spectrum licences. Green = spectrum licensed areas in the range 25.1-27.5 GHz, red = spectrum licensed areas in the range 25.1-27 GHz.



## Outline

This paper has been divided into discussion on the proposed coexistence arrangements with other services in and adjacent to the 26 GHz band, and the relevant instruments that form a spectrum licence technical framework:

* Spectrum Licence:
* Unwanted emission limits;
* Other conditions on the licence;
* The determination made under s.145(4) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (the Act) on unacceptable levels of interference:
* The device boundary criteria (DBC) (limiting emissions across geographical boundaries);
* Deployment constraints;
* Advisory guidelines made under s.262 of the Act:
* Managing interference from spectrum licensed transmitters;
* Managing interference to spectrum licensed receivers.

Draft versions of the spectrum licence, s.145(4) determination and advisory guidelines are provided at Appendices A-D.

The ACMA is also developing the technical framework for ‘area-wide’ apparatus licences (optimised for wireless broadband services) in the 26 GHz and 28 GHz bands (applicable to frequencies and areas not subject to the 26 GHz band reallocation declaration) – see the *Development of the 26/28 GHz band apparatus licence technical framework* TLG paper on the SharePoint site. It is proposed that parts of the apparatus licence technical framework are incorporated into the spectrum licence framework. Therefore, the apparatus licence TLG paper (and appendices) may need to be read in conjunction with this paper.

## Scope

The scope of this paper is limited to developing a technical framework for spectrum licensing in the areas and frequencies covered in the 26 GHz band re-allocation declaration[[2]](#footnote-3). It will not consider:

* Allocation issues (e.g. lot sizes, auction format): This will be covered in a separate consultation process
* Development of new apparatus licence arrangements for wireless broadband in the 26 GHz and 28 GHz bands: technical/operating arrangements will be considered in a separate workstream within the TLG.
* Class licence arrangements for wireless broadband in the 26 GHz band. These will be developed through separate consultation processes, having regard to the technical arrangements for other licence types in the band as agreed in the TLG.

## Spectrum reform

The government is reforming the spectrum management framework within Australia. The Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA) has provided the following information to stakeholders:

|  |
| --- |
| Rather than completely re-writing the legislation, modernising Australia’s spectrum management framework will now be pursued through a staged approach to amending the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.  The first stage of amendments to the Act will deal with a number of priority issues to deliver tangible benefits to industry and consumers. The changes will be designed to remove unnecessary constraints in spectrum allocation and reallocation processes.   * Spectrum licence terms will be extended to a maximum of 20 years, with clearer licence renewal processes. * The arrangements for apparatus licences are also being aligned with spectrum licences to the extent possible. * There will also be changes to improve technical regulation, streamline device supply schemes and introduce graduated enforcement mechanisms for breaches of the Act. * To minimise disruption to spectrum users, existing licence types and planning arrangements will be retained at this time.   We are working towards the introduction of a draft amendment bill into the Australian Parliament in early 2020. |

Given the timeframes associated with the 26 GHz band project, the ACMA is proposing to develop new arrangements in this band assuming the existing regulatory regime will apply. It is acknowledged that any new arrangements for the 26 GHz band may need to be accommodated under the new legislative framework, once it commences. The ACMA will take into account relevant opportunities offered by the implementation of the new legislative framework, if and when applicable.

Further information on spectrum reform is available from DoCA.

## Timeline

The ACMA is working towards allocating the 26 GHz band spectrum licences in Q1 2021. To do this the following indicative timeframe for the TLG is:

| Key steps | Proposed Date |
| --- | --- |
| TLG process   * Initial release of TLG paper * Deadline for submissions/comments on initial TLG paper * Revision to TLG paper * Deadline for submissions/comments on revised TLG paper * TLG paper Version 3.0 | Nov 2019-Mar 2020  11 Nov 2019  22 Dec 2019  27 Jan 2020  23 Feb 2020  16 March 2020 |
| Public consultation on the draft updates to the following technical framework instruments (the consultation will also include a draft 26 GHz band marketing plan):   * Draft spectrum licence; * Draft *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 26 GHz Band) Determination 2020;* * Draft *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference from Spectrum Licensed Transmitters — 26 GHz Band) 2020;* * Draft *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers – 26 GHz Band) 2020* * Draft update to *Radiocommunications (Trading Rules for Spectrum Licences) Determination 2012.* | Q2/Q3 2020 |
| Finalisation of technical framework | Q4 2020 |

The TLG is the first step in the process of developing a technical framework. While the aim is to complete the work in the timeframe defined this will ultimately depend on the complexity of the issues identified. The ACMA will use the outcomes of the TLG to publicly consult on the relevant instruments that will form the 26 GHz band technical framework. This means TLG members will be able to provide comments on the technical framework both as part of the informal TLG and subsequent formal public consultation processes.

## Legal Review

The draft instruments at appendices A-D have not undergone legal review. This review will be conducted prior to finalisation which could result in changes to the text as drafted.

Under the currently proposed timeline, a legal review of the draft instruments will be performed after the conclusion of the TLG and finalised in time for public consultation of the draft technical framework in Q2/Q3 2020.

# Coexistence with other services

Devices operated under a 26 GHz band spectrum licence will need to coexist not only with other spectrum licensed services, but also with services operating in and adjacent to the 25.1-27.5 GHz band. The 26 GHz band spectrum licence technical framework therefore needs to include provisions to manage coexistence with the following services:

* ‘Area-wide’ apparatus licensed devices operating:[[3]](#footnote-4)
* In the frequency range 24.7-25.1 GHz Australia wide
* In the frequency range 25.1-27.5 GHz is areas adjacent to 26 GHz band spectrum licensed areas
* Space research service (SRS) earth stations receiving in the frequency range 25.5-27 GHz
* Fixed satellite service (FSS) gateway uplinks operating in the frequency range 27-27.5 GHz
* Space-based passive earth exploration satellite services (EESS) operating in the frequency range 23.6-24 GHz
* Legacy fixed point-to-point services operating in the frequency range 27.5-28.5 GHz
* Class licensed devices operating within the frequency range 25.1-27.5 GHz.

This chapter outlines the proposed coexistence arrangements with the services listed above. Details of how these arrangements will be incorporated into the various parts of the technical framework are also contained in subsequent chapters.

## ‘Area-wide’ apparatus licensed devices operating in and adjacent to the 25.1-27.5 GHz band

It is proposed that ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed devices will operate:

* In the frequency ranges 24.7-25.1 GHz and 27.5-29.5 GHz Australia wide,
* In the frequency range 25.1-27.5 GHz is areas not subject to the 26 GHz band reallocation declaration,

It is proposed that ‘area-wide’ apparatus licences will authorise the operation of devices in a defined frequency/area combination with licence conditions to manage out-of-area and out-of-band interference. This is similar to – but on a smaller scale than – spectrum licencing, and in the same way, interference will primarily be managed at the apparatus licence boundary (frequency and area) with a reduced requirement for device-based coordination.

It is proposed that the technical framework for ‘area-wide’ apparatus licences in the 26/28 GHz bands will be optimised for 3GPP NR (5G) wireless broadband (fixed and mobile) services and will be in effect very similar to the proposed technical framework for 26 GHz band spectrum licences. This will therefore result in reciprocal interference management arrangements at the licence boundaries between apparatus and spectrum licences.

It is proposed that coexistence between spectrum licensed and area-wide apparatus licensed services will be managed by the following:

* At the frequency boundary:
* Unwanted emission limits specified on the spectrum licence (further details in the *Unwanted emission limits* section)
* The (time division duplex) synchronisation requirements specified on the spectrum licence (detailed in the *In-band emission limits* section)
* At the geographic area boundary:
* The device boundary criteria (DBC) (further details in the *Device boundary criteria* section)
* The synchronisation requirements specified on the spectrum licence

At both the frequency and area boundaries, the synchronisation requirement will act as a fallback (on a case-by-case basis) should interference occur which cannot be resolved through negotiation between relevant parties. It is proposed that the same synchronisation requirement will be placed on apparatus licensed services through an update to an applicable Licence Condition Determination made under paragraph 107(1)(f) of the Act.

Given the similarities between services expected to be operated under spectrum and ‘area-wide’ apparatus licences, it is proposed that the above mechanisms will be used to manage interference in both directions across the apparatus/spectrum licence area/frequency boundaries. Further details are contained in the *Managing interference from spectrum-licensed transmitters* and *Managing interference to spectrum-licensed receivers* sections.

## Coexistence with SRS earth stations in 25.5-27 GHz

Earth receive stations support space research activities in the frequency range 25.5-27 GHz and are currently restricted to two space communications facilities at New Norcia, WA, and Tidbinbilla, ACT. The decision paper proposed the following measures to protect these earth stations:

* Exclusion zones within the Canberra spectrum licence area where spectrum licensed devices cannot be operated
* A requirement that all licensed devices must be coordinated with these earth stations with a protection level of -156 dBW/MHz.

Rationale for the proposed exclusion areas and protect level is provided in Annex E of the decision paper.

The ACMA maintains the view that spectrum licence exclusion zones are necessary to manage coexistence with the Tidbinbilla earth station. It is proposed that the exclusion zone for transmitters operating in the range 25.5-27 GHz applies to the following HCIS cells: MW4H3, MW4H9, MW4L3, MW5I1, which are proposed to be implemented via a condition on each spectrum licence – see *Other conditions on the licence*.

It is proposed that the coordination requirement be included in the RAG Tx, and is discussed further in the *Radiocommunications advisory guideline*s chapter.

## Coexistence with FSS gateway up-links in 27-27.5 GHz

### Interference to FSS gateway satellites

NBN operate 10 FSS gateway uplinks which overlap the upper 500 MHz of the 26 GHz band (27-27.5 GHz). The decision paper outlined some preliminary views on additional conditions on wireless broadband use to safeguard coexistence with NBNs gateway uplinks.

It is proposed that the following conditions be applied to spectrum licensed devices operating in the range 27-27.5 GHz and within HCIS areas listed in Appendix E:

* Base station TRP is not to exceed 25 dBm/200 MHz
* Outdoor base stations must have mechanical down tilt equal to or greater than 0˚
* Outdoor base stations must not direct antenna beams (via electrical steering) to elevation angles greater than 5˚ above the horizon for more than 5% of time

Outdoor fixed UEs must not direct their antenna beam (via electrical or mechanical steering) to within 1.5° of the GSO arc when the antenna beam is pointed at elevation angles of greater than or equal to 3° above the horizon.[[4]](#footnote-5)

The rationale for these proposed conditions is contained in Appendix F. Appendix F also includes the rationale for not including limitations on emissions above the horizon for mobile UEs.

It is currently proposed that the additional conditions outlined above will be captured in the RAG Tx – see the *Radiocommunications advisory guidelines* chapter. To provide additional regulatory certainty it is also proposed to include a condition on spectrum licences which will require compliance with these provisions in the RAG Tx *–* see the *Other conditions on the licence* subsection.

The areas in which the additional conditions should apply (detailed in Appendix E) are based on the -3 dB contours for 56 dBi spot beam antennas on satellites at longitudes of 140˚E and 145˚E pointed at each of the 10 NBN gateway earth stations.

A potential cap on outdoor wireless broadband base station numbers within NBN gateway areas was also mooted as a possible additional condition in the decision paper. However, the ACMA is currently of the view that the other proposed additional licence conditions are sufficient to safeguard coexistence and that additional device limits are not necessary.

### Interference from FSS gateway earth stations to spectrum licensed receivers

The potential for interference from FSS earth stations to receivers operated under 26 GHz spectrum licences will depend on a number of variables, in particular geographical separation and antenna discrimination. Studies undertaken by Task Group 5/1 indicate maximum separation distances of up to 7.5 km (for earth station elevation angles of at least 20˚) are required to protect IMT stations, however actual distances will depend on specific circumstances.[[5]](#footnote-6) The probability of interference to spectrum licensed receivers is low given:

* the minimum elevation angle of all existing FSS earth stations in 27-27.5 GHz is approximately 40˚

the closest existing FSS earth station to a 26 GHz band spectrum licensed area in the range 27-27.5 GHz is approximately 6.5km

FSS earth station locations and antenna pointing angles are static are can be accounted for in network planning.

It is therefore proposed that no protection will be afforded to spectrum licensed receivers from interference from existing FSS earth stations. Applications for new FSS gateway earth stations following the issue of 26 GHz band spectrum licences will be considered on a case by case basis. This guidance is proposed to be included into the RAG Rx – see the *Radiocommunications advisory guidelines* chapter.

## Passive EESS satellite receivers operating in the 23.6-24 GHz band

Space-borne passive sensing EESS services operate in the 23.6-24 GHz band. Coexistence studies between IMT-2020 and passive EESS essentially means being able to protect passive EESS receivers from aggregated out-of-band (OOB) emissions from wide-area wireless broadband services operating in the 26 GHz band. Extensive studies have been undertaken both internationally (notably under ITU-R Task Group 5/1 and the ECC) and domestically (in the Inter-service Working Group convened by the ACMA in October 2018). As at the release date of this paper, this issue is also being considered at WRC-19 under agenda item 1.13 – the TLG will be able to consider outcomes of these considerations as they become available.

To manage coexistence between passive EESS receivers and 26 GHz band wireless broadband devices, the ACMA proposed (in the decision paper) unwanted out-of-band TRP limits in the range 23.6-24 GHz of -37 dBW/200MHz for base stations and -33 dBW/200MHz for user equipment. These limits are based on the agreed European limits[[6]](#footnote-7) with adjustments to account for:

* Lower population densities in Australian cities compared to Europe
* A lower contribution of aggregated emissions into the passive EESS band from fixed services operating below 23.6 GHz in Australia than in Europe. In Europe, some of the EESS interference budget included contributions from fixed services – in Australia there is an existing guard band between these services in Australia.

It is proposed that:

* the above unwanted emission limits in the range 23.6-24 GHz are included as a core condition on 26 GHz band spectrum licences – see the *Unwanted emission limits* section.
* these unwanted emission limits are only placed on spectrum licensed transmitters operated outdoors – see the S*tatutory conditions on the licence* section for the proposed definition of ‘indoors’. It is expected that unwanted emissions from indoor devices will be sufficiently attenuated due to the external structure negating the need for more restrictive emission limits in the passive band.
* further guidance is also included in the RAG Tx – see the *Radiocommunications advisory guidelines* chapter.

## Point to point services

As detailed in the [Future use of the 28 GHz band – Planning decisions and preliminary views](https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/Future-use-of-the-28-GHz-band-Final.docx) (the 28 GHz band decision paper), no new point-to-point services are to be assigned in the 28 GHz band. Legacy point-to-point services will be able to continue to operate for a minimum of 7 years with a possibility of continued operation beyond this timeframe (subject to further review).

It is proposed that during this 7 year period, 26 GHz band spectrum licensed services will need to coexist with existing point-to-point services in the adjacent 28 GHz band. The risk of interference is low (given there will be a frequency separation of at least 600 MHz between spectrum licensed and fixed services), however including coexistence arrangements will provide a level of certainly for legacy fixed services.

Coordination procedures for protecting point-to-point services from ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed services are proposed to be included in a new RALI (RALI[new] – a draft is available on the 26/28 GHz band TLG SharePoint site). It is proposed that 26 GHz band spectrum licensed transmitters will need to be coordinated with legacy point-to-point services using the provisions in RALI[new].

It is further proposed that 26 GHz band spectrum licensed receivers will not be afforded protection from existing point-to-point links. In planning deployments under a 26 GHz band spectrum licence the licensee should take account of existing point-to-point transmitters and plan their services accordingly.

Further guidance is provided in *Managing interference from spectrum-licensed transmitters* section.

## Devices operating under existing class licences

Various class licensed devices currently operate in the 24.25-27.5 GHz range, including:

* Aviation security body scanning devices operated in the frequency range 24.25-30 GHz, authorised under the [Radiocommunications (Body Scanning – Aviation Security) Class Licence 2018](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01583)
* Devices authorised under the [Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018C00500), including:
* Radiofrequency identification transmitters operated in the frequency range 24.1-26.5 GHz
* Radiodetermination transmitters operating in the frequency range 24.05-26.5 GHz
* Ultra-wideband short-range vehicle radar systems operating in the range 22-26.5 GHz

As detailed in the decision paper, the ACMA is of the view that these class licensed devices can coexist with 26 GHz band spectrum licensed service without the need for specific licence conditions or coordination requirements. This is owing to the short-range nature of these services, or the requirements for them to be operated in shielded enclosures or directed towards solid structures (wall/ground).

In some situations, effective site management may be needed to help manage coexistence (for example when operating in the vicinity of airport body scanning devices). A requirement to manage co-sited interference is proposed to be included on 26 GHz band spectrum licences — this requirement is consistent with spectrum licences issued in other bands (see the *Other conditions on the licence* section) — and would also be effective in limiting the (already unlikely) potential for instances of interference between body scanners and spectrum licensed services.

In addition, to avoid the need for changes to body scanner operating requirements, in the unlikely event that there is interference between body scanners and spectrum licensed devices (in either direction) it is proposed the spectrum licensee will be responsible for resolving any such issues.

Guidance on coexistence with class-licensed services is proposed to be included in the RAG Tx and RAG Rx — see the *Radiocommunications advisory guidelines* chapter.

# Discussion of proposed technical framework

A spectrum licence technical framework consists of three interlocking regulatory elements provided for under the Act:

* The conditions specified on the spectrum licence—in particular, the core conditions that define the spectrum space (both frequency and geographical area) and the level of emissions permitted inside and across the frequency boundaries of the licence (section 66 of the Act). The draft spectrum licence is contained in Appendix A
* A determination of unacceptable interference for the purpose of device registration in each band (section 145 of the Act). This defines permissible levels of emissions across geographical licence boundaries and can also define various deployment constraints. The draft *Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 26 GHz Band) Determination 2020* (the s.145 determination) is contained in Appendix B.
* Radiocommunications advisory guidelines (RAGs) that provide assistance and advice for coordination with stations in other services when and where required (section 262 of the Act). This includes detailing interference management criteria with incumbent apparatus and other spectrum licences. Draft *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference from Spectrum Licensed Transmitters — 26 GHz Band) 2020* (RAG Tx) and *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers — 26 GHz Band) 2020* (RAG Rx) are contained in Appendix C and D respectively.

A more comprehensive explanation of spectrum licence technical frameworks is provided in the document [*Know your obligations—Spectrum licensees*](https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-08/know_your_obligations-pdf.pdf).

This section of the paper considers the development of each of these components, along with the standard trading unit and minimum contiguous bandwidth.

## International Developments

There has been extensive work undertaken internationally relevant to the introduction of wireless broadband services into the 26 GHz band. This section provides an outline of this work. The documents listed below have been consulted when developing the proposed spectrum licence technical framework for the 26 GHz band.

### ITU-R studies

The 26 GHz band is one of a number of bands being considered by the ITU-R for IMT-2020 under agenda item 1.13. As at the release date of this paper, further consideration, including decisions on potential changes to the ITU-R Radio Regulations, is being made at WRC-19 – the TLG will be able to consider outcomes of these considerations as they become available.

In November 2015, Study Group 5 of the ITU-R established a dedicated task group, TG 5/1, to conduct sharing and compatibility studies relevant to WRC-19 agenda item 1.13. This work included studies on coexistence between wireless broadband and existing services in and adjacent to the 26 GHz band. The following documents contain studies which are relevant to coexistence with existing services operating in Australia:

* Annex 1 of Document [5-1/478](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0478/en): Systems parameters and propagation models to be used in sharing and compatibility studies
* Attachment 2 to Annex 3 of Document [5-1/478](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0478/en): Sharing and compatibility of passive services in adjacent frequency bands and IMT operating in the 24.25-27.5 GHz frequency range
* Attachment 3 to Annex 3 of Document [5-1/478](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0478/en): Sharing and compatibility of the FSS and IMT operating in the 24.25-27.5 GHz frequency range

Attachment 2 of Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-WP5D-C-0036/en): Definition of parameters for IMT-2020 evaluation.

### Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) outcomes

The ECC has also been active in developing arrangements for wireless broadband services in the 26 GHz band and have produced the following documents:

* [ECC Decision (18)06](https://www.erodocdb.dk/document/3361): ECC Decision of 69 July 2018 on the harmonised technical conditions for Mobile/Fixed Communications Networks (MFCN) in the band 24.25-27.5 GHz, corrected 26 October 2018

[CEPT Report 68](https://www.erodocdb.dk/document/3358): Harmonised technical conditions for the 24.25-27.5 GHz (’26 GHz’) frequency band

### 3GPP standards

Band n258 (comprising the frequency range 24.25-27.5 GHz) is standardised by 3GPP for New Radio (NR) technologies (also referred to as 5G). 3GPP has developed a range of standards and technical papers in relation to NR, including:

* 3GPP [TS 38.101-2](https://www.3gpp.org/DynaReport/38101-2.htm): NR; User Equipment (UE) radio transmission and reception; Part 2: Range 2 Standalone
* 3GPP [TS 38.104](https://www.3gpp.org/DynaReport/38104.htm): NR; Base Station radio transmission and reception

## System model

System models are used to simplify the development of the technical framework. This section outlines the proposed system model for the 26 GHz band spectrum licence technical framework.

Given the international developments outlined in the previous section, the technology type that has formed the basis of this technical framework is limited to fixed and mobile wireless broadband services. However, this does not exclude the use of other technologies under the licence or the operation of systems using different parameters than those specified in this paper, so long as they fit within the technical framework.

1. **Views are sought on details of any other systems which may be deployed under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band.**

The specific technology being considered in the development of the new technical framework is 3GPP NR (3GPP 38-series).

1. **Views are sought on details of any other technologies which may be deployed under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band**

It is proposed that the technical framework is optimised for TDD operation, which aligns with 3GPP standards and ECC decisions[[7]](#footnote-8).

It is further proposed that the following two different system models are considered:

* Mobile wireless broadband network
* ‘Hot-spot’ type deployments to provide high capacity in highly populated areas.
* Typical maximum coverage per base station approx. 100-200m.
* Low base station antenna heights (e.g. light pole mounted) at heights below 6m above ground level and typically immersed in local clutter.
* UE antenna height typically around 1.5m above ground.
* Fixed wireless broadband network
* Providing high capacity broadband access to fixed locations (e.g. domestic and/or commercial premises).
* Station antenna heights positioned to get above local clutter and maximise coverage, typically 15m above ground level. Path to user terminals is typically clutter free.
* UE antennas typically mounted on the external surface of a building (e.g. roof, eave), at a height of around 5m above ground.

It is proposed that the system model detailed above be used in the development of the 26 GHz band spectrum licence technical framework.

1. **Is the proposed system model suitable for the development of the 26 GHz band spectrum licence technical framework?**

## Standard Trading Unit and Minimum Contiguous Bandwidth

A spectrum licence may be traded in whole, or in part, by geographic area or frequency or both. Under section 88 of the Act, the ACMA may determine the rules that apply to trades under spectrum licensing. These rules are contained in the [*Radiocommunications (Trading Rules for Spectrum Licences) Determination 2012*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018C00564)(trading determination).

The trading determination specifies (a) the smallest parcel of spectrum space that can be traded (the standard trading unit) and (b) the minimum contiguous holding of spectrum space required by a licensee after the completion of a trade. This minimum holding is a combination of frequency and geographic requirements. Where:

1. the frequency requirement is equal to the minimum contiguous bandwidth (MCB)
2. the geographical requirement is equal to the geographical component of the standard trading unit (STU)

The minimum quotas of frequency and area that can be traded are defined by the STU. The definition of an STU is contained in the trading determination.

The STU that applies to all existing spectrum licence bands is defined as a parcel of spectrum space that consists of:

1. a geographic area equal to a Level 1 HCIS cell of the 2012 Australian Spectrum Map Grid (ASMG)[[8]](#footnote-9)– approximately 9×9 kilometre in size
2. a frequency band where the lower and upper frequency limits of each segment are integers when described in Hertz

This means the frequency component of the STU is defined as 1 Hz for all existing spectrum licence bands. This provides licensees with flexibility in the quantum of spectrum that may be traded, subject to the value of the MCB. The minimum area is referenced to the ASMG mapped consistently in five-minute increments by latitude and longitude.

The ACMA is of the view that the existing STU (described above) should also apply to the 26 GHz band, and therefore the ACMA does not propose making any changes to the STU as part of the 26 GHz band spectrum licence TLG process.

1. **There is no proposed change to the STU.**

The MCB for spectrum licences is typically set at the minimum amount of spectrum needed to provide a viable service. In consideration of the technology likely to be deployed under a 26 GHz band spectrum licence, 3GPP NR (see the *System model* section), the minimum channel bandwidth is 50 MHz. However, more efficient use of spectrum is achievable if channels sizes in multiples of 100 MHz are used, indicating that 100 MHz may be the minimum bandwidth for an “efficient” service.

Based on the above, an appropriate MCB for the 26 GHz band could be 50 or 100 MHz. Given that 50 MHz is the minimum channel size, and that this amount of spectrum can still provide a viable service, it is proposed that the MCB for the 26 GHz band should be set at 50 MHz.

1. **Is a 50 MHz MCB appropriate for the 26 GHz spectrum licence band?**

## Conditions on the spectrum licence

Each spectrum licence includes both core conditions and statutory conditions specified under relevant sections of the Act. The Act also provides that other specific conditions may be included by the ACMA.

* **Core conditions**—required under section 66, these conditions define the spectrum space within which the licensee is authorised to operate radiocommunications devices under the licence, and the maximum permitted level of radio emissions inside and outside the band. These conditions are included in all spectrum licences.
* **Statutory conditions**—required under sections 67 to 69A, these conditions include information about payment of charges, use by third parties, residency, registration of transmitters and devices exempt from registration. These conditions are included in all spectrum licences.
* **Other conditions**—conditions placed on licences under section 71 generally provide for the efficient management of the spectrum and administration of the Act. These conditions may vary from one band or licence to another.

The core conditions of a spectrum licence form the fundamental building blocks for operation of a spectrum-licensed device, and for managing interference with adjacent frequency bands and geographic areas. Section 66 of the Act states spectrum licences must specify the following core conditions:

* the part or parts of the spectrum in which operation of radiocommunications devices is authorised under the licence (frequency range of operation)
* the maximum permitted level of radio emission, in parts of the spectrum outside the frequency range specified on the licence, that may be caused by operation of radiocommunications devices under the licence (outside-the-band emission)
* the area within which operation of radiocommunications devices is authorised under the licence (geographic area of operation)
* the maximum permitted level of radio emission that may be caused by the operation of radiocommunications devices under the licence (outside-the-area emission).

### In-band emission limits

Maximum in-band power limit

In the decision paper, the ACMA proposed an in-band total radiated power (TRP) limit of 30 dBm/200 MHz. This was based on the transmit power level specified by WP 5D[[9]](#footnote-10) to be used in sharing studies (25 dBm/200 MHz) plus an additional 5 dB margin to provide some flexibility in the framework for higher power base stations. The ECC has not specified an in-band power limit.[[10]](#footnote-11)

The ACMA continues to propose that the in-band TRP limit should be 30 dBm/200 MHz.

Managing adjacent channel interference

As outlined in the *System mode*l section, it is proposed that the 26 GHz band technical framework be optimised for TDD operation. This is consistent with 3GPP standards and ITU-R sharing studies. The most critical interference scenario that might result between adjacent TDD networks is interference from base station transmitter to base station receiver when they are operating at the same time. There are two options which have been used in other bands to manage this interference scenario:

1. Use of a ‘restricted block’ at the frequency boundary adjacent to another spectrum licence. A lower in-band emission limit would be specified in the restricted block which, together with a more restrictive unwanted emission limit, would manage adjacent channel interference.
2. Requiring adjacent networks to synchronise their operation if interference occurs.

Either option could be specified as a fall-back which is only applied when interference occurs and an agreement to manage the interference cannot be reached between affected parties.

Both options have been used domestically in licensing arrangements applicable to other frequency bands. A restricted block arrangement was implemented in the original 3.4 GHz band spectrum licence technical framework. However, concerns were raised in the development of the 3.6 GHz band framework that this approach is not spectrally efficient, particularly for 5G technologies making use of active antenna systems (AAS).

One possible problem with the restricted block approach might be that the ‘additional unwanted emission limit’ would only apply when needed to manage interference. This could be something that is known to apply at the time of planning a network or it may not apply until sometime in the future when an adjacent band licensee deploys a service. The latter scenario could be problematic for 5G systems, as it may not be possible to apply additional RF filtering to an AAS base station post manufacture, given the integrated nature of the antenna and RF unit. It is therefore preferable that unwanted emission limits between spectrum licensees be static, although again, this can be inefficient.

Given the above concerns, the synchronisation approach was ultimately implemented in the 3.4/3.6 GHz bands. It is proposed to use a similar synchronisation approach as a fallback if needed to manage adjacent band interference in the 26 GHz band. The proposed requirements are:

* When interference exceeds a specified limit, licensees will be required to synchronise services.
* Synchronisation would only be required between affected devices, not network-wide.
* Licensees would be free to negotiate alternative arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

The proposed requirements will require the fallback synchronisation frame structure to be pre-defined. In the 3.6 GHz band technical framework a frame structure based on LTE technology (from 3GPP TS 36.211) was defined. The ACMA is seeking advice from the TLG on an appropriate frame structure to be codified in the 26 GHz band technical framework as a fallback if/when required.

Synchronisation may, depending on the parameters adopted, result in the inability of operators to implement some low-latency options and/or flexible/dynamic UL/DL sequencing. However, it also negates the need for guard bands or restricted blocks, reducing the requirement for (and costs associated with) additional filtering and potentially mitigates the effect of dead zones that might occur when managing cross-border interference.

It is therefore proposed to attach the below synchronisation condition to spectrum licences in the 26 GHz band (noting that the frame structure is still to be determined) — this proposed requirement is also included in the draft sample licence in Appendix A. The proposed synchronisation procedure would be invoked as necessary for interference management purposes with other 26 GHz band spectrum licensed services as well as with devices operated under an ‘area-wide’ apparatus licence in the 26 and 28 GHz bands.

**Synchronisation requirement**

If:

1. interference occurs between:

(i) a radiocommunications device (the ***first device***) operated under this licence; and

(ii) a radiocommunications device (the ***other device***) operated under another 26 GHz band spectrum licence or an area-wide apparatus licence in the frequency range 24.7 GHz to 29.5 GHz (the ***other licence***);

1. the level of interference to the first device or to any other devices exceeds the compatibility requirement set out in the *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers — 26 GHz Band) 2020* as in force from time to time;
2. either the licensee or the holder (or authorised third party) of the other licence wishes to resolve the interference; and
3. no agreement between the licensee and each person operating one or more other devices can be reached on how to manage the interference;

then the licensee is required to manage the interference by:

1. either:

(i) operating the first device with a frame structure that uses [TBD]; or

(ii) operating the first device using a sequence and duration of radio emissions that is consistent with those configurations (disregarding any time at which the device is not making a radio emission); and

1. synchronising the timing of the frame structure or other sequence of radio emissions of the first device with the timing of the frame structure or other sequence of radio emissions of each of the other devices (disregarding any device at a time at which the device is not making a radio emission).

Note: The synchronisation requirement only applies when an interference issue occurs and where there is no other measure agreed to between the licensees to resolve the interference. This means synchronisation can be done on a site/cell specific basis. During any period in which the licensee and other licensee are taking steps to resolve the interference issue or synchronise, the ACMA will generally give priority to the device registered first in time in any interference dispute, meaning that device or devices registered later-in-time will generally be required to accept any interference or cease causing interference during this time.

1. **Is the proposed in-band total radiated power (TRP) limit appropriate?**
2. **Noting that adjacent band licensees can negotiate alternative arrangements, is the synchronisation fall-back option the most suitable approach to manage adjacent channel interference?**
3. **Where synchronisation is needed, which frame structure for the synchronisation condition should be mandated?**

The ACMA will continue to work with stakeholders regarding appropriate wording and definition of the synchronisation requirement.

### Unwanted emission limits

When defining unwanted emission limits (both out-of-band and spurious), consideration has been given to the following documents:

* 3GPP TS 38.104 (NR base station)
* 3GPP TS 38.101-2 (NR user equipment)
* Attachment 2 to Document 5-1/36 (details IMT-2020 characteristics to be used in sharing studies)
* ECC Decision (18)06

Like the 3.6 GHz band technical framework, the ACMA proposes to specify the unwanted limit as a total radiated power (TRP). This acknowledges that NR (also referred to as 5G) equipment will typically utilise antenna arrays which are integrated into the base station, meaning it will be difficult to undertake conducted power measurements. A TRP specification is suitable for both AAS and non-AAS devices.

***Registered devices***

Figure 2 provides a comparison of the different base station unwanted limit specifications derived from the documents listed above. As the frequency offsets for the application of unwanted emission limits in 3GPP standards vary depending on channel bandwidth, Figure 2 includes 3GPP limits applicable to the smallest (50 MHz) and largest (400 MHz) channels. The WP 5D[[11]](#footnote-12) and 3GPP limits are dependent on the transmit power level. A transmit power level of 30 dBm (equal to the proposed in-band limit) is used to derive the limits shown in Figure 2.

1. Comparison of unwanted emission limits – base station

It is proposed that unwanted emissions should not be higher than those necessary to deploy a service. The ECC limits would allow higher levels of unwanted emissions at certain offsets than necessary for 3GPP standardised equipment. While lower unwanted emission levels would better ensure coexistence with adjacent services, specifying limits below the 3GPP standardised levels may adversely impact device availability and/or manufacturing costs. However, from a practical perspective, it is also noted that unwanted emission levels decrease as the wanted transmit power decreases.

It is proposed that the unwanted emission limits for registered devices in the 26 GHz band should align with the 3GPP 400 MHz channel limits. This will allow all currently-specified 3GPP-standardised channel sizes to be deployed under the 26 GHz technical framework. Lower limits based on the WP 5D mask would better ensure coexistence with adjacent-band services – the ACMA seeks input on the feasibility and utility of specifying these lower limits instead.

The proposed unwanted emission limits for registered devices are shown in Tables 1 and 2 (based on out-of-band and spurious emission limits in 3GPP TS 38.104), excluding emissions in the range 23.6-24 GHz.

Note that the limits in Table 1 work well when adjacent band systems are using the same technology and have synchronised operation. As discussed previously, it is assumed that when required to manage interference, licensees will either synchronise their services or negotiate an alternative solution, so it has been deemed that definition of stricter unwanted emission limits to manage interference or unsynchronised operation will not be necessary.

1. Proposed transmitter unwanted emission limit at offsets less than or equal to 40 MHz from the licence frequency boundary – registered devices.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequency Range (foffset)** | **Total Radiated Power (dBm)** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| 0 MHz ≤ foffset ≤ 40 MHz | -5 | 1 MHz |

1. Transmitter unwanted emission limits at frequencies offsets greater than 40 MHz from the licence frequency boundary (excluding the 23.6-24 GHz band) – registered devices.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequency Range**  **(f)** | **Total Radiated Power (dBm)** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| 30 MHz ≤ f < 1 GHz | -13 | 100 kHz |
| 1 GHz ≤ f ≤ 55 GHz | -13 | 1 MHz |

As discussed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, additional unwanted emission limits are proposed in the range 23.6-24 GHz to protect passive EESS. The proposed limits for registered devices are provided in Table 3 – for consistency with other emission limits the TRP value has been converted from dBW to dBm.

1. Proposed transmitter unwanted emission limit within the 23.6-24 GHz frequency band – registered devices.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequency Range** | **Total Radiated Power (dBm)** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| 23.6-24 GHz | -7 | 200 MHz |

***Devices exempt from registration***

UE unwanted emission limits from 3GPP TS 38.101-2 are shown in Table 4. The unwanted emission limits specified by WP 5D[[12]](#footnote-13) reflect the 3GPP limits for a 200 MHz channel shown in Table 4.

1. NR unwanted emission limits from 3GPP TS 38.101-2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Spectrum emission limit (dBm)/ Channel bandwidth | | | | | |
| foffset  (MHz) | 50  MHz | 100  MHz | 200  MHz | 400  MHz | Measurement bandwidth |
| ± 0-5 | -5 | -5 | -5 | -5 | 1 MHz |
| ± 5-10 | -13 | -5 | -5 | -5 | 1 MHz |
| ± 10-20 | -13 | -13 | -5 | -5 | 1 MHz |
| ± 20-40 | -13 | -13 | -13 | -5 | 1 MHz |
| ± 40-100 | -13 | -13 | -13 | -13 | 1 MHz |
| ± 100-200 |  | -13 | -13 | -13 | 1 MHz |
| ± 200-400 |  |  | -13 | -13 | 1 MHz |
| ± 400-800 |  |  |  | -13 | 1 MHz |

To ensure that all of the available standardised channel sizes can be deployed under the 26 GHz band spectrum licence framework, it is proposed that the unwanted emission limits for registration-exempt devices align with the 400 MHz channel emission limits shown in Table 4.

The proposed unwanted emission limits are shown in Tables 5 and 6 (based on out-of-band and spurious limits in 3GPP TS 38.101-2), excluding emissions in the range 23.6-24 GHz.

1. Transmitter unwanted emission limit at offsets less than or equal to 40 MHz from the licence frequency boundary – devices exempt from registration.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequency Range (foffset)** | **Total Radiated Power (dBm)** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| 0 MHz ≤ foffset ≤ 40 MHz | -5 | 1 MHz |

1. Transmitter unwanted emission limits at frequencies greater than 40 MHz from the licence frequency boundary — devices exempt from registration.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequency Range**  **(f)** | **Total Radiated Power (dBm)** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| 30 MHz ≤ f < 1 GHz | -36 | 100 kHz |
| 1 GHz ≤ f < 12.75 GHz | -30 | 1 MHz |
| 12.75 GHz ≤ f < 23.6 GHz | -13 | 1 MHz |
| 24 GHz ≤ f ≤ 55 GHz | -13 | 1 MHz |

As discussed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, additional unwanted emission limits for spectrum licensed transmitters operating outdoors are proposed in the range 23.6-24 GHz to protect passive EESS. For indoor transmitters, the proposed limit in that frequency range aligns with the spurious limits in relevant 3GPP standards.[[13]](#footnote-14)

The proposed unwanted emission limits in the range 23.6-24 GHz for devices exempt from registration are provided in Table 7. For consistency, the TRP values has been converted from dBW to dBm.

1. Transmitter unwanted emission limits into the range 23.6-24 GHz — devices exempt from registration.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total Radiated Power (dBm) per device** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| Transmitters located outdoors | -3 | 200 MHz |
| Transmitters located indoors | -13 | 1 MHz |

The proposed receiver unwanted emission limits are shown in Table 8 and are based on the limits specified in 3GPP TS 38.104.

1. Receiver unwanted emission limits.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequency Range**  **(f)** | **Total Radiated Power (dBm) per device** | **Measurement Bandwidth** |
| 30 MHz ≤ f < 1 GHz | -57 | 100 kHz |
| 1 GHz ≤ f < 12.75 GHz | -47 | 1 MHz |
| 12.75 GHz ≤ f ≤ 55 GHz | -36 | 1 MHz |

1. **Are the unwanted emission limits proposed in this paper appropriate?**
2. **Should the unwanted emission limits for registered devices on 3GPP standards, or on the lower WP 5D limits?**

### Statutory conditions on the licence

Each licence contains a number of statutory conditions which are applicable under requirements defined in sections 67-69A of the Act. These include obligations on payments, third party use, device registration (and exemption) and residency requirements.

Standard text describing these requirements is included on all spectrum licences – refer to Licence Schedule 3 of the Draft Licence at Appendix A. The main statutory requirements that differ from band-to-band relate to the devices that are exempt from registration.

Notionally, device registration and certification are a precondition for operating a radiocommunications device under a spectrum licence. The primary purpose of device registration is to enforce the requirements of devices operating under a spectrum licence, so they do not cause unacceptable interference (as defined by the subsection 145(4) determination).

In accordance with section 69(2) of the Act, specific devices may be exempt from registration.

The registration exempt requirements are designed to facilitate the use of devices in the band by exempting those that operate in a particular way and meet the core conditions of the licence.

User terminals, both fixed and mobile, are the most obvious devices that need to be exempt from registration due to their nomadic/mobile nature and ubiquitous deployment. Table 9 lists the maximum TRP and EIRP limits from WP 5D and 3GPP.

1. User equipment output power limits.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **User terminal type** | **Max TRP (dBm)** | **Max EIRP (dBm)** | **Source** |
| Handheld UE | 22 | 39[[14]](#footnote-15) | Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en) |
| 23 | 43 | 3GPP (TS 38.101-2) |
| Fixed wireless access UE | 35 | 55 | 3GPP (TS 38.101-2) |

While it is not considered ideal to require user terminal to be registered, it is not desirable to exempt devices which meet the limits for fixed wireless access devices in Table 9, given these limits would also exempt base stations (and would not be permitted by the proposed in-band limit of 30 dBm/200 MHz).

It is proposed that any device operating with an TRP less than or equal to 23 dBm per occupied bandwidth be exempt from registration. This value will allow handheld UEs compliant with 3GPP standards to be registration exempt. Although this value is 1 dB higher than the TRP used in ITU-R sharing studies, the fact that UEs will in most cases operate with transmit powers well below this level (due to adaptive power control) means that this 1 dB increase is expected to have a negligible impact on other services.

Although this proposed registration exemption would require power class 1 devices to be registered, it is expected that not all fixed applications would require the use of high powered user terminals. It may be feasible for fixed wireless access networks to use power class 3 devices in many cases (potentially with the use of higher gain antennas). The ACMA seeks views on the suitability of the proposed registration exemption limit.

It is also proposed to exempt all indoor devices from registration (base stations and UEs). The high building entry loss at 26 GHz (based on Recommendation ITU-R P.2109) is expected to reduce the risk of interference from indoor devices and negate the need for these devices to be registered.

The building entry loss model in Recommendation ITU-R P.2109 is based on measurement data collated in Report ITU-R P.2346. While the model in P.2109 assumes that terminals will have an equal probability of location within a building, the measurements in Report ITU-R P.2346 used a wide range of different locations within the building. The majority of studies took measurements at distances of approximately 2 metres or more from the external surface of the building. Based on this, it is proposed that the definition of ‘indoor’ operation is when the transmit antenna is located at least 2 metres from the external surface of the building in the direction of its main beam. For a device using AAS, this condition would need to be met in all directions in which the main beam is to be steered.

The proposed devices exempt from the registration requirement is as follows:

**Exemption from registration requirements**

1. The following kinds of radiocommunications transmitters are exempt from the registration requirement in Statutory Condition 3:

1. a transmitter that operates in the 26 GHz band with a maximum total radiated power of less than or equal to 23 dBm per occupied bandwidth; or
2. a transmitter which has its antenna located indoors.

***Indoors*** means an enclosed space where the antenna is located at least 2 metres from the external surface of the part of the enclosed space which is illuminated by the antenna’s half-power beamwidth.

There is no requirement to register receivers operated under a spectrum licence. However, in order to gain protection (which is often provided on a first-in-time registered basis), it is recommended that these devices be registered. The ACMA does not intend to change this option or require the registration of receivers.

1. **Are the proposed exemption from registration requirements suitable?**

### Other conditions on the licence

Spectrum licences typically contain a number of additional licence conditions – standard text describing these requirements is included on all spectrum licences, refer to Licence Schedule 4 of the Draft Licence at Appendix A. The main conditions which may differ from band-to-band relate to:

* The distance between devices which are considered co-sited (for interference management purposes)
* Coexistence requirements with specific services
* Managing interference from devices exempt from registration
* Synchronisation requirements (as discussed earlier in the *In-band emission limits* section).

***Co-sited devices***

Interference between devices that are located within a few hundred metres of each other can be difficult to model and can require the implementation of unnecessarily stringent requirements to cover all possible cases. As a result, the ACMA includes additional conditions on the licence so that licensees can work together to resolve any interference caused between radiocommunications devices where the phase centre of each antenna is separated by a specified distance. This clause is common to all spectrum licensed bands with only the specified distance varying.

The technical framework for all spectrum licensed bands other than the 3.4 GHz band define co-sited devices as being within 200m. 500m is used in the 3.4 GHz owing to the technical framework being optimised for TDD operation and lower receiver blocking requirement.

Although the 26 GHz band technical framework is proposed to be optimised for TDD, the relatively high propagation attenuation in the band and the use of AAS is expected to present a lower risk of co-site interference than in the 3.4 GHz band. Therefore, it is proposed to define devices within 200m as being co-sited for interference management purposes.

***Coexistence requirements with specific services***

As described in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, it is proposed that:

* additional limitations on the operation of spectrum licensed transmitters (operating in 27-27.5 GHz and located within the areas specified in Appendix E) to safeguard coexistence with FSS uplinks be contained in the RAG Tx (see *Managing interference from spectrum-licensed transmitters*). It is proposed to include a licence condition requiring compliance with this provision in the RAG Tx.
* A condition restricting the operation of transmitters in specified HCIS cells be included on spectrum licences to protect the SRS earth station at Tidbinbilla.

The proposed conditions are shown below and in the draft sample licence in Appendix A.

|  |
| --- |
| **Coexistence with fixed satellite gateway uplinks**  The licensee must ensure that the operation of radiocommunications transmitters complies with the protection requirements specified in Part 4 of the Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines *(Managing Interference from Spectrum Licensed Transmitters — 26 GHz Band) 2020*, as in force from time to time.  **Coexistence with space research earth stations**  The licensee must not operate a radiocommunications transmitter in the frequency range 25.5 GHz to 27 GHz if it is located in any of the following HCIS: MW4H3, MW4H9, MW4L3, MW5I1. |

No other coexistence requirements are proposed to be included as a condition on 26 GHz band spectrum licences.

***Managing interference from devices exempt from registration***

The risk of interference from devices exempt from registration (see theStatutory conditions on the licencesection) is low because of their low-power and/or nomadic nature, or because of their indoor operation. However, to provide certainty in managing an unlikely case of interference from these devices it is proposed that the following provision be included on 26 GHz band spectrum licences:

|  |
| --- |
| The licensee must ensure that the operation of a radiocommunications transmitter that exempt from registration under Statutory Condition 4 of Licence Schedule 3 does not cause harmful interference to other radiocommunications devices operated under a different spectrum or apparatus licence. |

1. **Do stakeholders have any concerns or alternative proposals for the proposed additional conditions?**
2. **Are there any other conditions stakeholders propose to include?**

## Unacceptable levels of interference

Spectrum licensees are required to register a radiocommunications transmitter in the Register of Radiocommunications Licences before they may be operated under the licence. The only exception to this is if there is a condition on licences that exempts certain types of transmitter.

Subsection 145(1) of the Act gives the ACMA the power to refuse to register a radiocommunications transmitter if it is satisfied that the operation of the transmitter could cause an unacceptable level of interference to the operation of other radiocommunications devices. Under subsection 145(4) of the Act, the ACMA can make a determination (referred to as a section 145 determination) that sets out what is considered unacceptable levels of interference for each spectrum-licensed band.

A section 145 determination sets out the circumstances in which devices are deemed to cause unacceptable levels of interference. These circumstances typically include:

* if the levels of emissions from a device at the geographical boundary of a licence exceed a defined level;
* if the operation of the transmitter will cause a breach of a core condition of the licence; and
* if the deployment of the device is outside any deployment constraints defined for the band.

### Level of protection

The level of protection (LOP) is the benchmark protection given to receivers from co-channel emissions of transmitters operating in adjacent geographic licence areas. The level of protection is a compromise between the level of emissions over the geographic boundary of the licence and the protection requirements of receivers. This benchmark level is necessary for the calculation of the device boundary criterion.

For this reason, it should be made clear that the LOP is not necessarily the same as the protection required for adjacent band services. The main distinction being that the LOP (and device boundary criteria) are aimed at managing emissions across a geographical licence area (not coordinating with a specific receiver) and adjacent channel protection is performed directly with the affected receiver.

It is proposed that the LOP is based on a protection criterion of I/N = -6 dB – this is consistent with the protection level set by WP 5D.[[15]](#footnote-16) Using a noise figure (NF) of 10dB[[16]](#footnote-17), receiver noise is calculated as:

Therefore, the proposed LOP is:

### Receive antenna height and gain

As detailed earlier, it is proposed to optimise the 26 GHz band technical framework for TDD operation and that a fall-back synchronisation requirement will manage interference between base stations operated by adjacent licensees. Therefore, the device boundary criteria will need to manage interference from base station to UE across the geographic boundary.

It is proposed that the receive antenna height be set to 5m based on the typical UE antenna height in fixed broadband networks – this is also consistent with the antenna height used in the 3.4 GHz band DBC.[[17]](#footnote-18)

Although UEs are expected to use high gain beamforming antenna’s (e.g. 17 dBi for a 4x4 antenna array) it is likely that the antenna gain in the direction of an adjacent area base station will be low because:

* UE’s will be electronically steering their antenna beams towards their own base station
* A relatively narrow beamwidth (approx. 29˚ for a 4x4 array when it is not being electronically steered)
* UEs located at (or near) the geographic boundary will be steering their antenna beam away from the boundary (i.e. its base station will need to be further away from the boundary in order to meet the DBC).

Considering the above points, it is proposed to use an antenna gain of -8 dBi, based on a 4x4 antenna array with a main beam gain of 17 dBi and a front-to-back ratio of 25 dB.[[18]](#footnote-19) This results in an antenna gain of -8 dBi out the rear of the antenna.

### Propagation model

A key component of the DBC is the propagation model. The propagation model chosen for the technical framework appears in the subsection 145(4) determination as part of the device boundary criterion. The propagation model selected for the technical framework needs to be:

* suitable for TDD systems
* a generic model available to all licensees/stakeholders
* can be repeated with certainty
* suitable for use in the 25.1-27.5 GHz range

The propagation model selected here does not need to be suitable for the detailed planning of services and licensees are free to use any model for their own planning needs. The selected propagation model will be the basis of the device boundary criterion on which the ACMA may decide to reject the registration of a transmitter to be operated under the spectrum licence.

There are a range of available propagation models that could be implemented, many of which are defined in recommendations created by the ITU-R. The ACMA considers in this case, the most appropriate propagation model to use is one which relaxes to a free-space or smooth-Earth model for unobstructed paths and one that considers terrain features where appropriate for obstructed paths. The ACMA proposes to use the model contained in Recommendation ITU-R P.526-14.

Clutter (from obstructions such as building, vegetation, etc.) has the ability to reduce interference, particularly in mmWave bands. Noting that the typical base station height in mobile broadband networks is 6m (based on Attachment 2 to Document 5-1/36), it is expected that in many cases that these base stations will be at or below the surrounding clutter height. Therefore, it may be prudent to also include clutter losses in the DBC calculation for certain base station antenna heights.

Recommendation ITU-R P.2108 provides equations to calculate clutter loss not exceeded for a percentage of locations. Noting that clutter loss should only be included on paths likely to have clutter (i.e. low base station antenna heights), and given that it is a generic model which won’t match actual clutter losses, the ACMA propose that:

* P.2108 should only be applied for base stations with antenna heights at or below 6m
* The ‘percentage of locations’ should be set to 0.0001%
* Clutter loss is applied at only one end of the interference path.

The combination of the above will produce relatively low levels of clutter loss on interference paths which are likely to be obstructed by clutter.

### Device boundary criteria

In consideration of the above, the proposed device boundary criteria consists of:

* A defined level of protection of -110 dBm/MHz to a receiver with a gain of -8 dBi at a height of 5m above the ground
* Use of Recommendations ITU-R P.526-14 as the propagation model. For base stations at or below 6m above ground level, additional clutter loss is included using Recommendation ITU-R P.2108 (set at the transmitter end only and *p*=0.0001%)
* 1 degree radial increments
* Step size of 100m, with a maximum 40 steps per radial
* A calculation procedure similar to that implemented in other spectrum licence bands (see the draft s.145 determination at Appendix B).

Conditions for application of the DBC

In most cases, a device is deemed to cause unacceptable interference if any part of the DBC falls outside the geographic area of the spectrum licence. However, there are some cases where higher levels of interference across a geographical area would not impact other users. Three relevant scenarios are when part of the DBC falls:

* Outside the ASMG
* Outside the licence area and only crosses sea or ocean (and no land) outside the licence area
* Outside the licence area and inside HCIS cell MW4H6 (this cell contains the Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex earth receive station). The protection provided by the DBC is based on wireless broadband technologies with synchronised TDD operation and will not provide adequate protection to SRS earth stations. As previously discussed, protection of SRS earth station is proposed to be provided by an exclusion zone and a coordination requirement. Therefore, allowing the DBC to fail within this cell will not impact coexistence between SRS and spectrum licensed devices.

The ACMA proposes to add clauses to the s.145 determination which deems these scenarios as not causing unacceptable interference. Similar arrangements are included in the 3.6 GHz band technical framework.

1. **Do stakeholders agree with the proposed device boundary criteria?**
2. **Is the proposed level of protection suitable?**
3. **Is it appropriate to include clutter losses for base stations at or below 6m?**
4. **Is the proposed receive antenna gain of -8 dB appropriate?**

### Unacceptable levels of interference

Under subsection 145(4) of the Act, the ACMA can determine what is considered unacceptable levels of interference. This has the effect of constraining how transmitters can be operated under a spectrum licence, as if a transmitter is operated in a manner that is deemed to cause unacceptable interference (as determined by the ACMA) then the ACMA has the power (under subsection 145(1) of the Act) to refuse to register it.

Based on the discussions in the previous sections, it is proposed that interference caused by a radiocommunications transmitter is unacceptable if:

|  |
| --- |
| (1) A level ofinterference caused by a radiocommunications transmitter operated under a spectrum licence issued for the 26 GHz band is unacceptable if:  (a) the operation of the transmitter in the 26 GHz band results in a breach of a core condition of the licence relating to the maximum permitted level of radio emission from the transmitter:  (i) outside the parts of the spectrum the use of which is authorised under the licence; or  (ii) outside the geographic area of the licence; or  (b) subject to subsections (2), (3) and (4) any part of the device boundary of the transmitter lies outside of the geographic area of the licence; or  (c) the device boundary of the transmitter cannot be calculated in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 2.  (2) A level of interference mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) is not unacceptable in relation to a part of the device boundary that:  (a) lies outside the boundary of the ASMG; and  (b) is connected to a radial that:  (i) is mentioned in Part 1 of Schedule 2; and   1. does not cross the geographic area of another spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band.   (3) A level of interference mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) is not unacceptable in relation to a part of the device boundary that:  (a) lies outside the geographic area of the licence; and  (b) lies inside the following HCIS: MW4H6; and  (c) is connected to a radial that:  (i) is mentioned in Part 1 of Schedule 2; and  (ii) does not cross the geographic area of another spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band.  (4) A level of interference mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) is not unacceptable in relation to a part of the device boundary that:  (a) lies outside the geographic area of the licence; and  (b) is connected to a radial that:  (i) is mentioned in Part 1 of Schedule 2; and  (ii) does not cross over land outside the geographical area of the licence that is permanently above the Australian territorial sea baseline as defined by Geoscience Australia. |

### Groups of transmitters and receivers

Group registration arrangements provide additional flexibility to licensees when deploying systems within the band.

In the TLG’s for the 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 700 MHz, 2.3 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands, the consensus was for group registration to primarily support the registration of systems that have their antenna phase centres located within a defined proximity (20 metres in this case). Additionally, the parameters of the equipment being considered in the group should be essentially identical, and that a transmitter or receiver can only belong to one group.

It is proposed to adopt the same arrangements for groups of transmitters and receivers in the 26 GHz band. See the draft s.145 determination for proposed wording.

1. **Are the proposed definitions of unacceptable interference appropriate?**
2. **Are there proposed arrangements for groups of transmitters and receivers suitable?**

## Radiocommunications advisory guidelines

Further guidance on interference management with other licensed services is provided in Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (RAGs) made under section 262 of the Act. RAGs can refer to any aspect of radiocommunications or radio emissions.

Generally, RAGs include provisions to help assess the possible interference between spectrum-licensed devices and services operating under spectrum, apparatus or class licences. Potentially affected services are identified in the RAGs to enable licensees to assess and mitigate the risk of interference between these services. Typically, a minimum of two RAGs are developed for each spectrum licence band. These include:

* A RAG to manage interference to spectrum licence receivers; and
* A RAG to manage interference from spectrum licence transmitters.

It is important to note that where a case of interference arises between a spectrum-licensed device and another licensed device, the ACMA will refer to the provisions of the RAGs in resolving the matter. In general, affected licensees also have the ability to negotiate their own arrangements in order to manage interference. Such arrangements will also be taken into account when resolving any interference disputes.

### Managing interference from spectrum-licensed transmitters

The protection requirements for the following services are proposed to be outlined in *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference from Spectrum Licensed Transmitters — 26 GHz Band) 2020* (RAG Tx)– the full draft RAG Tx is contained in Appendix C*:*

* Area-wide apparatus licensed devices operating:
* In the frequency ranges 24.7-25.1 GHz and 27.5-29.5 GHz Australia wide
* In the frequency range 25.1-27.5 GHz is areas adjacent to 26 GHz band spectrum licensed areas
* SRS earth stations operating in the frequency range 25.5-27 GHz
* FSS gateway uplinks operating in the frequency range 27-27.5 GHz
* Passive EESS operating in the frequency range 23.6-24 GHz
* Legacy fixed point-to-point services operating in the frequency range 27.5-28.5 GHz
* Class licensed devices operating within the frequency range 25.1-27.5 GHz.

‘Area-wide’ apparatus licensed services operating in and adjacent to the 25.1-27.5 GHz range

The ACMA is considering new arrangements for ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed services which authorise operation in the 24.7-25.1 GHz and 27.5-29.5 GHz bands Australia wide and 25.1-27.5 GHz in geographic areas not subject to 26 GHz band reallocation declaration.

Radiocommunications transmitters operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band have the potential to cause interference to ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed receivers operating in adjacent frequencies and areas.

The device boundary criterion, as defined in the s.145 determination, is the primary mechanism for managing interference across geographical boundaries. However, at times it may be necessary for licensees operating transmitters under a 26 GHz band spectrum licence to negotiate with other ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensees when deploying services in order to avoid harmful interference.

The primary mechanism for managing interference across frequency boundaries is the unwanted emissions limits defined in the 26 GHz band spectrum licence. However, as services operated under 26 GHz band spectrum licences and ‘area-wide’ apparatus licences will be in TDD mode, there is potential for interference even when devices comply with the defined unwanted emission limits. Therefore, at times it may be necessary for licensees operating transmitters under a 26 GHz band spectrum licence to negotiate with ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensees when deploying services in order to avoid harmful interference.

It is proposed that the following protection requirements are include in the RAG Tx*:*

|  |
| --- |
| Spectrum licensees planning to deploy radiocommunications transmitters in the 26 GHz band should have regard to radiocommunications receivers recorded in the Register operating under area-wide apparats licences operating in and adjacent to the 26 GHz band.  In planning for the operation of fixed transmitters under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band, spectrum licensees should coordinate with any radiocommunications receivers recorded in the Register. The coordination performed should:   * use the parameters of the radiocommunications receivers as recorded in the Register; * use the compatibility requirement set out in Schedule 2 of the *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers — 26 GHz Band)* 2020 as in force from time to time; * Although there are no receiver performance requirements, the notional receiver performance level set out in Schedule 1 of the *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers — 26 GHz Band)* 2020 as in force from time to time, is to be used for coordination purposes; * make use of a suitable propagation model to model path loss between the fixed transmitters and radiocommunications receivers; and * take into account terrain and any other relevant factors.   *Note*: An example of a suitable propagation model is that set out in section 4.5.2 of ITU-R Recommendation P.526-14 *Propagation by diffraction*.  In the event that coordination performed as outlined above indicates harmful interference may occur, spectrum licensees should consider:   * replanning the deployment of the fixed transmitters to avoid causing harmful interference; or * negotiating with the affected spectrum licensee to find a resolution.   In the event a solution under the above provisions is not possible, interference is managed in accordance with any synchronisation requirementcondition included in the spectrum licence, unless other arrangements are agreed to by the affected licensees.  *Note:* For a device with an active antenna system, the radiated power in the direction of a receiver operated under another licence, is defined as the sum of the gain of the antenna towards in the direction of the receiver (accounting for azimuth and elevation) and the Total Radiated Power (dBm). This allowance is based on the assumption that beam pointing angles and/or power can be controlled dynamically to ensure a defined level of radiated power in a specific direction is not exceeded. |

Coexistence with SRS earth stations in 25.5-27 GHz

Earth receive stations support space research activities in the range 25.5-27 GHz and are currently located at New Norcia, WA, and Tidbinbilla, ACT. As detailed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, the ACMA proposes that spectrum licensed transmitters which are not exempt from registration and operating in the range 25.5-27 GHz must be coordinated with these earth station with a protection level of -156 dBW/MHz.

The following requirements are proposed to be included in the RAG Tx:

|  |
| --- |
| * Radiocommunications transmitters operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band in the frequency range 25.5-27 GHz, other than transmitters exempt from registration is accordance with the conditions of the licence, must protect the Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex earth receive station located at -35.3951˚N, 148.9785˚E and the New Norcia Deep Space Ground Station earth receive station located at -31.0484˚N, 116.1914˚E. * The Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex and the New Norcia Deep Space Ground Station are to be protected from co-channel emissions to an aggregate interference level of -156 dBW/MHz at the input of the receiver.   Note: The interference level is based on Recommendation ITU-R SA.609-2.   * The earth station antenna pattern to be used in calculations is defined in ITU-R Recommendation SA.509-3 with a minimum elevation of: * 11.3 degrees above the horizon for the Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex * 10 degrees above the horizon for the New Norcia Deep Space Ground Station. |

FSS gateway uplinks

As detailed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, the ACMA proposed a range of additional conditions to safeguard coexistence of 26 GHz band spectrum licensed transmitters with FSS gateway uplinks in the range 27-27.5 GHz. These proposed conditions would apply to spectrum licensed devices operating in the range 27-27.5 GHz and within HCIS areas listed in Appendix E and consist of:

* Base station TRP is not to exceed 25 dBm/200 MHz
* Outdoor base stations must have mechanical down tilt equal to or greater than 0˚
* Outdoor base stations must not direct antenna beams (via electrical steering) to elevation angles greater than 5˚ above the horizon for more than 5% of time
* Outdoor fixed UEs must not direct their antenna beam (via electrical or mechanical steering) to within 1.5˚ of the GSO arc when the antenna beam is pointed at elevation angles of greater than or equal to 3° above the horizon.

It is proposed that the conditions included in the RAG Tx as detailed below*.*

|  |
| --- |
| A radiocommunications transmitter operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band must not direct its antenna beam to within 1.5 degrees of the geostationary orbit, if it:   * Is directing its antenna beam to an elevation angle greater than or equal to 3 degrees above the horizon; * is a fixed transmitter; * operates with a total radiated power of less than or equal to 23 dBm per occupied bandwidth; * Is connected to an antenna which is not located indoors; * operates in the frequency range 27-27.5 GHz; and * is located inside an area subject to additional conditions specified in Schedule 1. * A radiocommunications transmitter operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band which is not exempt from registration under Statutory Condition 4 of Licence Condition 3 of the spectrum licence, must not: * operate with a total radiated power exceeding 25 dBm/200MHz; * be connected to an antenna which has its highest gain directed above the horizon when the antenna is not being electrically steered; or * direct its antenna beam via electrical steering to an elevation angle greater than 5 degrees above the horizon for more than 5 percent of time   If:   * the radiocommunications transmitter operates in the frequency range 27-27.5 GHz; and * the radiocommunications transmitter is located inside an area subject to additional conditions specified in Schedule 1. * Other than the requirements in subsections 4.2(1) and 4.2(2) of Part 4, radiocommunications transmitters operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band in accordance with the conditions of the licence are not taken to cause unacceptable interference to FSS gateway uplinks. |

To provide additional regulatory certainty is also proposed that a licence condition requiring compliance with the above provisions is included on spectrum licences *–* see the *Other conditions on the licence* subsection.

Passive EESS in the 23.6-24 GHz band

Space-borne passive sensing EESS services operate in the 23.6-24 GHz band. To manage coexistence between passive EESS and devices operating under a 26 GHz spectrum licence, the ACMA proposes the unwanted TRP limits in the range 23.6-24 GHz of -37 dBW/200MHz for base stations and -33 dBW/200MHz for user equipment be included as a core condition on 26 GHz band spectrum licences – see the *Unwanted emission limits* subsection.

It is proposed that the following guidance be included in the RAG Tx*:*

|  |
| --- |
| Radiocommunications transmitters operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band in accordance with the conditions of the licence are not taken to cause unacceptable interference to earth exploration satellite services (passive) operating in the 23.6-24 GHz band. |

Legacy fixed point-to-point services operating in the frequency range 27.5-28.5 GHz

As discussed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, it is proposed that 26 GHz spectrum licences service are coordinated with legacy point-to-point services in the adjacent 27.5-29.5 GHz band, using the provisions in RALI[new].

It is proposed that the following guidance is included in the RAG Tx:

|  |
| --- |
| In planning for the operation of radiocommunications transmitters under a spectrum licence, spectrum licensees are to provide fixed point-to-point services with a level of out-of-band and in-band protection from those transmitters, other than transmitters exempt from registration in accordance with the conditions of the licence, as would be provided from an area-wide apparatus licensed transmitter which has been coordinated in accordance with RALI[new]. |

Class licensed devices

A number of class licensed devices currently operate in the 24.25-27.5 GHz range authorised by the [Radiocommunications (Body Scanning – Aviation Security) Class Licence 2018](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01583) and the [Radiocommunications (low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018C00500). As detailed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, the ACMA is of the view that these class licensed devices can coexist with 26 GHz band spectrum licensed services without the need for specific licence conditions or coordination requirements.

To avoid the need for changes in operation to body scanners, in the unlikely event there is interference between body scanners and spectrum licensed devices (in either direction) it is proposed the spectrum licensee will be responsible to make change to resolve the issue.

The ACMA proposes that the following guidance be included in the RAG Tx*:*

|  |
| --- |
| * Radiocommunications transmitters operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band must not cause harmful interference to a device operated under the *Radiocommunications (Body Scanning – Aviation Security) Class Licence 2018*, as in force from time to time. * Radiocommunications transmitters operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band in accordance with the conditions of the licence are not taken to cause unacceptable interference to services operating under a class licence other than the *Radiocommunications (Body Scanning – Aviation Security) Class Licence 2018*. |

1. **Are the proposed coexistence arrangements appropriate?**
2. **Is it suitable to include a synchronisation fall-back requirement to manage interference to area and frequency adjacent apparatus licensed wireless broadband services?**
3. **Are the proposed coordination requirements with SRS earth stations appropriated?**
4. **Are the propose conditions to safeguard coexistence with FSS gateway uplinks appropriate? Are the proposed areas where the conditions apply (see Appendix E) appropriate? Should a cap on wireless broadband services also be considered?**
5. **Should coexistence requirement for any other services be included in the RAG Tx?**

### Managing interference to spectrum-licensed receivers

The draft *Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers — 26 GHz Band) 2020* (RAG Rx) provides guidance on the management of interference to receivers operating under a 26 GHz band spectrum licence. The RAD Rx will provide coexistence arrangement with specific services, as well as detailing notional receiver parameters.

A full copy of the draft RAG Rx is contained in Appendix D.

Area-wide apparatus licensed services operating in and adjacent to the 25.1-27.5 GHz range

The ACMA is developing arrangements for ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed wireless broadband services in the 24.7-25.1 GHz and 27.5-29.5 GHz bands Australia wide and 25.1-27.5 GHz in geographic areas not subject to 26 GHz band reallocation declaration.

It is proposed that in-band interference caused to spectrum licensed receivers by transmitters operating under an ‘area-wide’ apparatus licence is managed as if the transmitter is operated under a spectrum licence. The same device boundary criteria and synchronisation requirement (unless other arrangements are agreed to by the affected licensees), as applied to spectrum licensed radiocommunications transmitters at the time of registration are also applied to area-wide apparatus licensed radiocommunications transmitters. Therefore, spectrum licensed receivers are afforded the same level of in-band protection from new ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed transmitters as they are afforded from transmitters operated under adjacent spectrum licences.

Requirements for ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed transmitters to comply with the device boundary criteria and the synchronisation requirement are proposed to be included in new ‘area-wide’ apparatus licence technical framework.[[19]](#footnote-20)

Coexistence with FSS gateway up-links in 27-27.5 GHz

FSS gateway uplinks operate with a frequency overlap with the upper 500 MHz of the 26 GHz band (27-27.5 GHz), with earth stations currently limited to 10 locations. The potential of interference from FSS earth stations into 26 GHz spectrum licensed devices will depend on a number of factors, in particular the geographical separation and antenna discrimination. As detailed in the *Coexistence with other services* section, the probability of interference to spectrum licensed devices is low.

The ACMA does not intend to develop coordination procedures to manage interference from existing FSS gateway earth stations as it considers that spectrum licensees are best placed to determine and implement appropriate mitigation techniques to address any potential interference cases. Therefore, it is proposed that spectrum licensees must accept any in-band interference to radiocommunications receivers caused by existing FSS earth stations.

Applications for new FSS earth stations (in frequency and area combinations not subject to the 26 GHz band reallocation declaration) after the issue of 26 GHz band spectrum licences will be coordinated with the spectrum licence space on a case by case basis. Coordination requirements will be developed in a separate consultation process.

Class licensed devices

A number of class licensed devices currently operate in the 25.1-27.5 GHz range authorised by the [Radiocommunications (Body Scanning – Aviation Security) Class Licence 2018](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01583) and the [Radiocommunications (low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018C00500). As detailed in the *Coexistence with other services* chapter, the ACMA is of the view that these class licensed devices can coexist with 26 GHz band spectrum licensed services without the need for specific licence conditions or coordination requirements.

To avoid the need for changes to body scanner operating requirements, in the unlikely event that there is interference between body scanners and spectrum licensed devices (in either direction) it is proposed the spectrum licensee will be responsible for resolving any such issues. To this effect, it is proposed that the follow text is included in the RAG Rx:

|  |
| --- |
| A Radiocommunications receiver operated under a spectrum licence in the 26 GHz band is not afforded protection from interference by a device operated under the *Radiocommunications (Body Scanning – Aviation Security) Class Licence 2018,* as in force from time to time. |

Notional Receiver

A key part of the management of out-of-band interference is the specification of a notional receiver performance level and a compatibility requirement. This provides a base for the operators of radiocommunications transmitters to coordinate their services against. While adherence to the notional receiver is optional, the ACMA will have regard to it when settling interference disputes. For this reason, it is recommended that all receivers operating under a spectrum licence have a performance level at least equal to the defined notional receiver

The ACMA does not intend to enforce minimum receiver performance levels. However, while receiver performance will not be a mandatory requirement, a minimum notional receiver performance level will be assumed when considering and resolving interference issues that might arise. This minimum level of performance is specified so that receivers with poor performance do not deny large amounts of spectrum space to transmitters in order to protect the receiver from interference.

The minimum Notional Receiver Performance Level consists of:

a compatibility requirement;

a notional antenna characteristic;

an adjacent channel selectivity;

a blocking level; and

an intermodulation rejection level.

Each of these requirements are specified in the following sections.

Specification of the notional receiver may either be done using absolute or relative values and is usually determined by the range of technologies that are in use or planned for use in the band. Where a particular technology type is dominant, it is possible to define absolute notional receiver parameters because over the course of the licence it is not anticipated that the service type will change. For the 26 GHz band the only technology expected to be deployed is NR, therefore specifying the notional receiver using absolute values is appropriate.

The majority of the proposed notional receiver specifications are based on 3GPP TS 38.104. Given the integrated nature of antenna arrays in mmwave NR equipment, receiver specifications for 26 GHz band equipment in 3GPP TS 38.104 are ‘over-the-air’, meaning limits are specified at the input of the receive antenna array. For the notional receiver, it is considered more appropriate to specify requirements at the receiver input, as this will allow interference management calculations to take into account the directivity of the receiver antenna (if known). Therefore, requirements for ACS, in-band blocking and intermodulation rejection include the gain of the notional antenna (detailed below).

3GPP TS 38.104 specifies different receiver requirements for wide area, medium range and local area base stations. The proposed notional receiver requirements are based on parameters for local area base stations as the proposed in-band limit of 30 dBm/200 MHz aligns with the output TRP limit for local area base stations of ≤33 dBm.[[20]](#footnote-21)

*Compatibility requirement*

3GPP TS 38.104 does not set specific reference sensitivity limits for mmwave equipment, instead reference sensitivity limits are based on a value to be declared by the equipment vendor (within a specified range). The reference sensitivity (EISREFSENS) for local area NR base stations at which a throughput requirement is to be met for a specified reference measurement channel is calculated by the following equation[[21]](#footnote-22):

EISREFSENS\_50M + ΔFR2\_REFSENS

Where:

EISREFSENS\_50M is based on a 50 MHz reference measurement channel and is declared by the equipment vendor within the range -86 to -109 dBm/50MHz at the receive antenna.[[22]](#footnote-23)

ΔFR2\_REFSENS is -3 dB for the reference direction, and 0 dB for all other directions within the range of angles of arrival.

For the minimum EISREFSENS\_50M of -109 dBm and ΔFR2\_REFSENS equals -3 dB, the EISREFSENS is -112 dBm/50MHz at the input of the antenna array. Taking into account the range of sensitivity levels and other anomalous effects on the wanted channel (fading, body loss, etc.), the minimum wanted signal level at the antenna input is –106 dBm per 50 MHz. This also matches the wanted signal mean power (EISREFSENS + 6 dB) level defined in 3GPP standards which is used as the reference level for values such as blocking and ACS.

To specify this requirement at the notional receiver input an assumed antenna gain of 23 dBi is subtracted, giving the proposed wanted level of -83 dBm/50MHz. It is also proposed that this wanted level should apply for 95% of the time in a 1 hour period – which is consistent with the capability requirements in the 3.6 GHz band.

The maximum tolerable interference level is proposed to be based on an I/N of -6 dB and a NF of 10 dB (sourced from WP 5D[[23]](#footnote-24)). This equates to a maximum interference level of -93 dBm/50MHz at the input of the receiver and a wanted to unwanted ratio of 10 dB.

*Notional antenna*

It is proposed that the antenna gain recorded in the RRL should be used for interference management purposes. If the antenna details are not included in the RRL, then an antenna gain (including losses) of 23 dBi (based on an 8x8 array) in all directions is to be used.

*Adjacent channel selectivity*

Adjacent channel selectivity (ACS) is a measure of the receiver’s ability to receive a wanted signal at its assigned channel frequency in the presence of an adjacent channel signal with a specified centre frequency offset of the interfering signal to the band edge of a victim system. In 3GPP TS 38.104, ACS is expressed as an absolute interfering signal level in the adjacent channel. The interference level is calculated with using the following equation:

Interfering signal mean power = EISREFSENS\_50M + 27.7 + ΔFR2\_REFSENS

As evident in the above equation, the ACS limit is dependent on the reference sensitivity level. For the lowest EISREFSENS\_50M of -109 dBm and ΔFR2\_REFSENS of -3 dB, the maximum interference level is –84.3 dBm/50 MHz with a centre frequency offset of at least ± 24.29 MHz. Assuming the proposed notional antenna gain of 23 dBi, the proposed adjacent channel selectivity requirement is -61.3 dBm/50MHz at the input of the receiver at offsets less than 50 MHz.

*Blocking*

Receiver blocking is a measure of the ability of a receiver to receive the wanted signal in the presence of a high level unwanted signal on frequencies other than the first adjacent channel. Blocking occurs where high levels of unwanted signal outside the wanted channel change the operating point of the RF amplifier or mixing stages reducing receiver sensitivity. This effectively blocks the reception of low level signals in the wanted channel.

In 3GPP TS 38.104, in-band blocking limits apply within the range 22.75-29 GHz and are expressed as an absolute interfering signal level centred at least 75 MHz offset from the channel edge. The interference level is calculated with using the following equations:

Interfering signal mean power = EISREFSENS\_50M + 33 + ΔFR2\_REFSENS

For the lowest EISREFSENS\_50M of -109 dBm and ΔFR2\_REFSENS of -3 dB, the maximum interference level is -79 dBm/50 MHz at the input of the antenna array. Assuming the proposed notional antenna gain of 23 dBi, the proposed blocking requirement in the range 22.75-29 GHz is -56 dBm/50MHz at the input of the receiver at offsets of greater than or equal to 50 MHz.

The proposed blocking requirements outside the 22.75-29 GHz band, based on the limits in 3GPP TS 38.104 are displayed in Table 10. These proposed limits apply at the input of the receive antenna (as antenna performance is unknown at frequencies well outside the operating band).

1. Proposed blocking requirements outside the 22.75-29 GHz band.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Frequency range (GHz)** | **RMS field strength (V/m)** |
| 0.03-12.75 | 0.36 |
| 12.75-22.75 | 0.1 |
| 29-55 | 0.1 |

*Receiver intermodulation rejection*

Intermodulation response rejection is a measure of the capability of the receiver unit to receive a wanted signal on its assigned channel frequency in the presence of two interfering signals which have a specific frequency relationship to the wanted signal. In 3GPP 38.104, the intermodulation rejection interference signal is calculated using the following equation:

EISREFSENS\_50M + 25 + ΔFR2\_REFSENS dB

For the lowest EISREFSENS\_50M of -109 dBm and ΔFR2\_REFSENS of -3 dB, the maximum interference level is -87 dBm/50 MHz at the input of the antenna array. The defined offsets of the interference signals (between the channel edge and the centre of the interference signal) depend on the wanted channel bandwidth and range between 5.64 and 7.5 MHz for a continuous wave signal and 40 to 45 MHz for the 50 MHz NR signal. Assuming the proposed notional antenna gain of 23 dBi and the minimum frequency offsets, the proposed intermodulation rejection requirement is -64 dBm per occupied bandwidth at the input of the receiver for offsets greater than 5 MHz.

|  |
| --- |
| The proposed compatibility requirement and notional receiver requirements are:  A compatibility requirement of:   * A minimum wanted signal level of -83 dBm per 50 MHz for 95% of the time in any 1 hour period; and * A wanted to unwanted ratio of 10 dB.   The adjacent channel selectivity requirement is -61.3 dBm/50MHz in the adjacent 50 MHz of the licence under which the radiocommunications receiver operates.  The receiver blocking requirement is:   * -56 dBm/50MHz for emissions at frequency offset greater than 50 MHz from the upper and lower frequency limits of the spectrum licence under which the radiocommunications receiver operating and within the 22.75-29 GHz frequency range * An RMS field strength at the input of the receive antenna of: * 0.36 V/m in the 0.03-12.75 GHz frequency range * 0.1 V/m in the frequency ranges 12.75-22.75 GHz and 29-55 GHz.   The receiver intermodulation rejection level is -64 dBm per occupied bandwidth for each out-of-band signal at frequency offsets greater than or equal to 5 MHz from the upper and lower frequency limit of the spectrum licence under which the radiocommunications receiver operates.  The antenna gain and feeder loss recorded for a radiocommunications receiver in the Register should be used for coordination. If an antenna gain or feeder loss is not available in the Register, then an antenna gain (including losses) of 23 dBi in all directions applies. |

1. **Are the proposed in-band coexistence arrangements appropriate?**
2. **Do stakeholders agree with the proposed parameters for the notional receiver and compatibility requirement?**
3. **Should any other coexistence requirements be included in the RAG Rx?**

# Appendix A – Draft spectrum licence

Refer to attachment on SharePoint

# Appendix B – Draft Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference - 26 GHz Band) Determination

Refer to attachment on SharePoint

# Appendix C – Draft Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference from Spectrum Licensed Transmitters – 26 GHz Band)

Refer to attachment on SharePoint

# Appendix D – Draft Radiocommunications Advisory Guidelines (Managing Interference to Spectrum Licensed Receivers – 26 GHz Band)

Refer to attachment on SharePoint

# Appendix E – Areas subject to additional conditions

The proposed areas to be subject to additional constraints for wireless broadband services in the range 27-27.5 GHz are contained in Table 10. These areas are consistent with those proposed in the decision paper and are based on the -3 dB footprint of a 56 dBi antenna on GSO satellites at longitudes of 140°E and 145°E for beams pointed at each of the 10 NBN gateway earth stations.

1. Proposed areas to be subject to additional constraints for wireless broadband services in the range 27–27.5 GHz

| Nbn gateway | HCIS |
| --- | --- |
| Bourke | LU4F, LU4G, LU4H, LU4J, LU4K, LU4L, LU4M, LU4N, LU4O, LU4P, LU5E, LU5F, LU5I, LU5J, LU5K, LU5M, LU5N, LU5O, LU7A, LU7B, LU7C, LU7D, LU7F, LU7G, LU7H, LU7J, LU7K, LU7L, LU7P, LU8A, LU8B, LU8C, LU8E, LU8F, LU8G, LU8I, LU8J, LU8M, LU4B9, LU4C5, LU4C6, LU4C7, LU4C8, LU4C9, LU4D4, LU4D5, LU4D6, LU4D7, LU4D8, LU4D9, LU4E6, LU4E9, LU4I2, LU4I3, LU4I5, LU4I6, LU4I8, LU4I9, LU5A4, LU5A5, LU5A6, LU5A7, LU5A8, LU5A9, LU5B7, LU5B8, LU5G4, LU5G7, LU5G8, LU5L7, LU5P1, LU5P4, LU5P7, LU7E2, LU7E3, LU7E5, LU7E6, LU7E8, LU7E9, LU7I3, LU7N2, LU7N3, LU7O1, LU7O2, LU7O3, LU7O4, LU7O5, LU7O6, LU7O9, LU8D1, LU8D4, LU8D7, LU8H1, LU8H4, LU8H7, LU8K1, LU8K2, LU8K3, LU8K4, LU8K5, LU8K6, LU8K7, LU8K8, LU8N1, LU8N2, LU8N3, LU8N4, LU8N5, LU8N6, LU8O1 |
| Carnarvon | AS8C, AS8D, AS8F, AS8G, AS8H, AS8I, AS8J, AS8K, AS8L, AS8M, AS8N, AS8O, AS8P, AS9A, AS9B, AS9E, AS9F, AS9G, AS9I, AS9J, AS9K, AS9M, AS9N, AS9O, AT1D, AT1H, AT2A, AT2B, AT2C, AT2D, AT2E, AT2F, AT2G, AT2H, AT2I, AT2J, AT2K, AT3A, AT3B, AT3E, AS5P9, AS6M7, AS6M8, AS8A9, AS8B5, AS8B6, AS8B7, AS8B8, AS8B9, AS8E2, AS8E3, AS8E4, AS8E5, AS8E6, AS8E7, AS8E8, AS8E9, AS9C4, AS9C5, AS9C7, AS9C8, AS9H4, AS9H7, AS9L1, AS9L4, AS9L7, AS9P1, AT1C2, AT1C3, AT1C5, AT1C6, AT1C8, AT1C9, AT1G2, AT1G3, AT1G5, AT1G6, AT1G8, AT1G9, AT1K3, AT1L1, AT1L2, AT1L3, AT1L4, AT1L5, AT1L6, AT1L9, AT2L1, AT2L2, AT2L3, AT2L4, AT2L5, AT2L6, AT2L7, AT2L8, AT2M3, AT2N1, AT2N2, AT2N3, AT3C1, AT3C2, AT3C3, AT3C4, AT3C5, AT3C7, AT3F1, AT3F2, AT3F3, AT3F4, AT3F5, AT3F7, AT3I1, AT3I2, AT3I3, AT3I4 |
| Ceduna | HV4, GV6D, GV6H, HV1F, HV1G, HV1H, HV1I, HV1J, HV1K, HV1L, HV1M, HV1N, HV1O, HV1P, HV2E, HV2I, HV2J, HV2M, HV2N, HV5A, HV5B, HV5E, HV5F, HV5I, GV3L3, GV3L6, GV3L8, GV3L9, GV3P2, GV3P3, GV3P4, GV3P5, GV3P6, GV3P7, GV3P8, GV3P9, GV6L1, GV6L2, GV6L3, GV6L4, GV6L5, GV6L6, GV6L8, GV6L9, GV6P2, GV6P3, GV6P6, HV1B8, HV1B9, HV1C7, HV1C8, HV1C9, HV1D7, HV1D8, HV1D9, HV1E5, HV1E6, HV1E7, HV1E8, HV1E9, HV2A7, HV2A8, HV2A9, HV2F1, HV2F4, HV2F5, HV2F7, HV2F8, HV2F9, HV2K1, HV2K4, HV2K7, HV2O1, HV2O2, HV2O4, HV2O5, HV2O7, HV2O8, HV5C1, HV5C2, HV5C4, HV5C5, HV5C7, HV5C8, HV5G1, HV5G4, HV5G7, HV5J1, HV5J2, HV5J3, HV5J4, HV5J5, HV5J6, HV5J7, HV5J8, HV5M1, HV5M2, HV5M3, HV5M4, HV5M5, HV5M6, HV5M7, HV5M8, HV5N1 |
| Geeveston | LY8B, LY8C, LY8D, LY8E, LY8F, LY8G, LY8H, LY8I, LY8J, LY8K, LY8L, LY8M, LY8N, LY8O, LY8P, LY9A, LY9E, LY9F, LY9G, LY9I, LY9J, LY9K, LY9M, LY9N, LY9O, LY9P, LZ2A, LZ2B, LZ2C, LZ2D, LZ2E, LZ2F, LZ2G, LZ2H, LZ2I, LZ2J, LZ2K, LZ2L, LZ2N, LZ2O, LZ2P, LZ3A, LZ3B, LZ3C, LZ3D, LZ3E, LZ3F, LZ3G, LZ3H, LZ3I, LZ3J, LZ3K, LZ3L, LZ3M, LZ3N, LZ3O, LY5N9, LY5O7, LY5O8, LY5O9, LY5P7, LY5P8, LY5P9, LY6M7, LY6M8, LY6M9, LY7H9, LY7L3, LY7L5, LY7L6, LY7L8, LY7L9, LY7P2, LY7P3, LY7P5, LY7P6, LY7P8, LY7P9, LY8A6, LY8A8, LY8A9, LY9B1, LY9B2, LY9B4, LY9B5, LY9B6, LY9B7, LY9B8, LY9B9, LY9C4, LY9C7, LY9C8, LY9H4, LY9H7, LY9L1, LY9L2, LY9L4, LY9L5, LY9L7, LY9L8, LY9L9, LZ1D2, LZ1D3, LZ1D5, LZ1D6, LZ1D8, LZ1D9, LZ1H2, LZ1H3, LZ1H5, LZ1H6, LZ1H9, LZ1L3, LZ1L6, LZ2M1, LZ2M2, LZ2M3, LZ2M5, LZ2M6, LZ2M9, LZ3P1, LZ3P2, LZ3P3, LZ3P4, LZ3P5, LZ3P6, LZ3P7, LZ3P8, MZ1A1, MZ1A4, MZ1A7, MZ1E1, MZ1E4, MZ1E7, MZ1I1, MZ1I4 |
| Kalgoorlie | DU7, CU9H, CU9K, CU9L, CU9O, CU9P, CV3B, CV3C, CV3D, CV3G, CV3H, CV3L, DU8A, DU8E, DU8I, DU8M, DV1A, DV1B, DV1C, DV1D, DV1E, DV1F, DV1G, DV1H, DV1I, DV1J, CU9D3, CU9D5, CU9D6, CU9D7, CU9D8, CU9D9, CU9G3, CU9G5, CU9G6, CU9G7, CU9G8, CU9G9, CU9J3, CU9J6, CU9J8, CU9J9, CU9N2, CU9N3, CU9N5, CU9N6, CU9N7, CU9N8, CU9N9, CV3F1, CV3F2, CV3F3, CV3F5, CV3F6, CV3F8, CV3F9, CV3J3, CV3K1, CV3K2, CV3K3, CV3K4, CV3K5, CV3K6, CV3K8, CV3K9, CV3P2, CV3P3, DU4M8, DU4M9, DU4N4, DU4N5, DU4N6, DU4N7, DU4N8, DU4N9, DU4O4, DU4O5, DU4O6, DU4O7, DU4O8, DU4O9, DU4P4, DU4P5, DU4P6, DU4P7, DU4P8, DU4P9, DU5M7, DU5M8, DU8B4, DU8B7, DU8B8, DU8F1, DU8F2, DU8F4, DU8F5, DU8F7, DU8F8, DU8J1, DU8J2, DU8J4, DU8J5, DU8J7, DU8J8, DU8N1, DU8N2, DU8N4, DU8N5, DU8N7, DV1K1, DV1K2, DV1K3, DV1K4, DV1K5, DV1K6, DV1K7, DV1L1, DV1M1, DV1M2, DV2A1, DV2A2, DV2A3, DV2A4, DV2A5, DV2A6, DV2A7, DV2A8, DV2B1, DV2E1, DV2E2, DV2E4 |
| Moonyoonooka | AU2L, AU2P, AU3C, AU3D, AU3E, AU3F, AU3G, AU3H, AU3I, AU3J, AU3K, AU3L, AU3M, AU3N, AU3O, AU3P, AU6A, AU6B, AU6C, AU6D, AU6E, AU6F, AU6G, AU6H, AU6I, AU6J, AU6K, BU1A, BU1B, BU1C, BU1E, BU1F, BU1G, BU1I, BU1J, BU1K, BU1M, BU1N, BU1O, BU4A, BU4B, BU4E, AT9O6, AT9O7, AT9O8, AT9O9, AT9P4, AT9P5, AT9P6, AT9P7, AT9P8, AT9P9, AU2H6, AU2H8, AU2H9, AU2K6, AU2K9, AU2O2, AU2O3, AU2O5, AU2O6, AU2O8, AU2O9, AU3A6, AU3A8, AU3A9, AU3B2, AU3B3, AU3B4, AU3B5, AU3B6, AU3B7, AU3B8, AU3B9, AU6L1, AU6L2, AU6L3, AU6L4, AU6L5, AU6L6, BT7M4, BT7M5, BT7M6, BT7M7, BT7M8, BT7M9, BT7N4, BT7N5, BT7N6, BT7N7, BT7N8, BT7N9, BT7O7, BT7O8, BU1D4, BU1D7, BU1H1, BU1H2, BU1H4, BU1H5, BU1H7, BU1H8, BU1L1, BU1L2, BU1L4, BU1L5, BU1L7, BU1L8, BU1P1, BU1P4, BU4C1, BU4C2, BU4C3, BU4C4, BU4C5, BU4C7, BU4F1, BU4F2, BU4F3, BU4F4, BU4F5, BU4I1, BU4I2 |
| Nugee | JV2L, JV2P, JV3B, JV3C, JV3D, JV3E, JV3F, JV3G, JV3H, JV3I, JV3J, JV3K, JV3L, JV3M, JV3N, JV3O, JV3P, JV5D, JV5H, JV6A, JV6B, JV6C, JV6D, JV6E, JV6F, JV6G, JV6H, JV6I, JV6J, JV6K, JV6L, KV1E, KV1I, KV1M, KV1N, KV4A, KV4E, JU9N8, JU9N9, JU9O7, JU9O8, JU9O9, JU9P7, JV2D6, JV2D8, JV2D9, JV2G9, JV2H2, JV2H3, JV2H4, JV2H5, JV2H6, JV2H7, JV2H8, JV2H9, JV2K3, JV2K6, JV2K8, JV2K9, JV2O2, JV2O3, JV2O5, JV2O6, JV2O8, JV2O9, JV3A2, JV3A3, JV3A4, JV3A5, JV3A6, JV3A7, JV3A8, JV3A9, JV5C2, JV5C3, JV5C5, JV5C6, JV5C9, JV5G3, JV5G6, JV5L1, JV5L2, JV5L3, JV5L5, JV5L6, JV5L9, JV6M1, JV6M2, JV6M3, JV6N1, JV6N2, JV6N3, JV6N4, JV6N5, JV6N6, JV6O1, JV6O2, JV6O3, JV6O4, JV6O5, JV6O6, JV6P1, JV6P2, JV6P3, JV6P4, KV1A4, KV1A5, KV1A7, KV1A8, KV1A9, KV1F1, KV1F4, KV1F7, KV1F8, KV1J1, KV1J2, KV1J4, KV1J5, KV1J7, KV1J8, KV1J9, KV4B1, KV4B2, KV4B3, KV4B4, KV4B5, KV4B6, KV4B7, KV4B8, KV4F1, KV4F2, KV4F4, KV4F5, KV4F7, KV4I1, KV4I2, KV4I3, KV4I4, KV4I5, KV4I6, KV4I7, KV4I8, KV4J1 |
| Roma | MT1O, MT1P, MT2M, MT4B, MT4C, MT4D, MT4E, MT4F, MT4G, MT4H, MT4I, MT4J, MT4K, MT4L, MT4N, MT4O, MT4P, MT5A, MT5B, MT5E, MT5F, MT5I, MT5J, MT5K, MT5M, MT5N, MT5O, MT7B, MT7C, MT7D, MT7H, MT8A, MT8B, MT8E, MT1K7, MT1K8, MT1K9, MT1L7, MT1L8, MT1L9, MT1M9, MT1N2, MT1N3, MT1N4, MT1N5, MT1N6, MT1N7, MT1N8, MT1N9, MT2I7, MT2N4, MT2N5, MT2N7, MT2N8, MT2N9, MT4A2, MT4A3, MT4A4, MT4A5, MT4A6, MT4A7, MT4A8, MT4A9, MT4M1, MT4M2, MT4M3, MT4M4, MT4M5, MT4M6, MT4M8, MT4M9, MT5C1, MT5C4, MT5C7, MT5C8, MT5G1, MT5G2, MT5G4, MT5G5, MT5G6, MT5G7, MT5G8, MT5G9, MT7A2, MT7A3, MT7A6, MT7A9, MT7F1, MT7F2, MT7F3, MT7F6, MT7G1, MT7G2, MT7G3, MT7G4, MT7G5, MT7G6, MT7G8, MT7G9, MT8C1, MT8C2, MT8C4, MT8C5, MT8C7, MT8F1, MT8F2, MT8F3, MT8F4, MT8F5 |
| Waroona | AV9D, AV9H, AV9L, BV4D, BV4F, BV4G, BV4H, BV4I, BV4J, BV4K, BV4L, BV4M, BV4N, BV4O, BV4P, BV5A, BV5B, BV5C, BV5E, BV5F, BV5G, BV5H, BV5I, BV5J, BV5K, BV5L, BV5M, BV5N, BV5O, BV5P, BV7A, BV7B, BV7C, BV7D, BV7E, BV7F, BV7G, BV7H, BV7I, BV7J, BV7K, BV7L, BV8A, BV8B, BV8C, BV8E, BV8F, BV8I, AV9C3, AV9C6, AV9C9, AV9G3, AV9G6, AV9G9, AV9K3, AV9P2, AV9P3, BV1P8, BV1P9, BV2M7, BV2M8, BV2M9, BV2N4, BV2N5, BV2N6, BV2N7, BV2N8, BV2N9, BV2O7, BV2O8, BV2O9, BV2P7, BV4B8, BV4B9, BV4C2, BV4C3, BV4C4, BV4C5, BV4C6, BV4C7, BV4C8, BV4C9, BV4E6, BV4E8, BV4E9, BV5D1, BV5D2, BV5D4, BV5D5, BV5D6, BV5D7, BV5D8, BV5D9, BV6A7, BV6E1, BV6E4, BV6E7, BV6E8, BV6I1, BV6I2, BV6I4, BV6I5, BV6I7, BV6M1, BV6M4, BV7M1, BV7M2, BV7M3, BV7M4, BV7M5, BV7M6, BV7N1, BV7N2, BV7N3, BV7N4, BV7N5, BV7N6, BV7O1, BV7O2, BV7O3, BV7O4, BV7O5, BV7O6, BV7P1, BV7P2, BV7P3, BV7P4, BV7P5, BV8D1, BV8D2, BV8D3, BV8D4, BV8D5, BV8D7, BV8G1, BV8G2, BV8G3, BV8G4, BV8G5, BV8G6, BV8G7, BV8G8, BV8H1, BV8J1, BV8J2, BV8J3, BV8J4, BV8J5, BV8J7, BV8M1, BV8M2 |
| Wolumla | MW8, MW5N, MW5O, MW5P, MW7L, MW9A, MW9B, MW9E, MW9F, MW9I, MW9J, MW9K, MW9M, MW9N, MW9O, MX2A, MX2B, MX2C, MX2D, MX2E, MX2F, MX2G, MX2H, MX2K, MX2L, MX3A, MX3B, MX3C, MX3E, MX3F, MX3G, MX3I, MX3J, MW5M5, MW5M6, MW5M7, MW5M8, MW5M9, MW6M1, MW6M4, MW6M5, MW6M6, MW6M7, MW6M8, MW6M9, MW6N7, MW7D3, MW7D6, MW7D8, MW7D9, MW7H2, MW7H3, MW7H5, MW7H6, MW7H7, MW7H8, MW7H9, MW7P1, MW7P2, MW7P3, MW7P5, MW7P6, MW7P8, MW7P9, MW9C7, MW9G1, MW9G2, MW9G4, MW9G5, MW9G7, MW9G8, MW9G9, MW9L7, MW9P1, MW9P4, MW9P7, MX1D2, MX1D3, MX1D5, MX1D6, MX1D9, MX1H3, MX2I2, MX2I3, MX2I6, MX2J1, MX2J2, MX2J3, MX2J4, MX2J5, MX2J6, MX2J8, MX2J9, MX2N3, MX2O1, MX2O2, MX2O3, MX2P1, MX2P2, MX2P3, MX2P5, MX2P6, MX3D1, MX3D4, MX3D7, MX3K1, MX3K2, MX3K4, MX3M1, MX3M2, MX3M3, MX3M4, MX3N1, MX3N2 |

# Appendix F – Coexistence with FSS uplinks

This appendix outlines the rationale for the inclusion of additional licence conditions on wireless broadband services within the -3 dB footprints of the nbn satellite network. These conditions relate to limitations on base station TRP and antenna beams above the horizon and restrictions on fixed outdoor UEs pointing antenna beams at the GSO arc.

**Limitation on base station TRP**

It is proposed to place a TRP limit of 25 dBm/200 MHz on spectrum licensed devices operating in 27-27.5 GHz and within the areas detailed in Appendix E. This TRP level is consistent with the base value used in international and domestic studies which considered coexistence with FSS uplinks.

**Limitation on base station emissions above the horizon**

To date, domestic and international sharing studies have assumed that user devices will always be below the base station – this means that base stations will always be directing their antenna beams below the horizon. While it is expected that base station antennas will predominantly be higher the UEs, the ACMA acknowledges that there may be a limited number of instances when UEs will be higher, for example when a UE in a building is connected to a street level base station (e.g. mounted on a light pole).

Placing a limit on the percentage of time base stations can direct their main antenna beams above the horizon will provide additional certainty that the aggregate interference limit into FSS satellite receivers will not be exceeded.

Table 12 provides the results of a study considering a satellite located at 145°E pointing at the NBN’s Waroona (WA) earth station.[[24]](#footnote-25) This study used methodology consistent with Australian contributions to ITU-R studies where the aggregate interference from all wireless broadband stations ‘visible’ to the satellite is summed with the aggregate interference from wireless broadband stations within the nbn’s -3 dB gateway footprint. This is to ensure that the interference from wireless broadband stations in the satellite main beam is not diluted in the averaging process.[[25]](#footnote-26) The wireless broadband station numbers in the -3 dB gateway footprint were calculated using the geographic areas of cities within the gateway footprint and using the equations and assumed deployment density figures in relevant ITU-R studies.

Table 12 also provides results of a sensitivity analysis which assumed that some UEs are located above the base station height – meaning that for 5 per cent of the time a base station would be directing its antenna beam greater the 5° above the horizon. As shown in Table 12, this would result in a 3.4 dB erosion in aggregate interference margin.

1. Impact of base station beams steered above the horizon

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **100% of base station antenna beams below horizon** | | **Base station antenna beams greater than 5° above the horizon of 5% of time** | |
| Satellite G/T | 30 dB/K | 25.2 dB/K | 30 dB/K | 25.2 dB/K |
| Satellite antenna gain | 56 dBi | | 56 dBi | |
| Interferer locations | Visible earth plus cities within 3 dB beamwidth (total city area = 1682 km²)[[26]](#footnote-27) | | | |
| I/N | -10.5 dB | | -10.5 dB | |
| Noise temp | 400 K | 1200 K | 400 K | 1200 K |
| Body Loss | 4 dB | | 4 dB | |
| Polarisation isolation | 3 dB | | 3 dB | |
| Calculated I/N | -31.9 dB | -36.7 dB | -28.5 dB | -33.3 dB |
| FSS interference margin (interference level below I/N criteria) | 21.4 dB | 26.2 dB | 18 dB | 22.8 dB |

The ACMA is of the view that a potential 3.4 dB erosion into the large interference margin is acceptable. Providing provisions which allows base stations to occasionally direct their beams above the horizon will provide flexibility in how wireless broadband networks can be deployed and operated. Therefore, to provide a balance between safeguarding coexistence with FSS gateway uplinks and not being overly restrictive on wireless broadband deployments, it is proposed to include the following licence conditions on wireless broadband stations within a 3 dB nbn gateway footprint and in the range 27-27.5 GHz:

* Outdoor base stations:
* must not direct antenna beams (via electrical steering) to elevation angles greater than 5° above the horizon for more than 5% of time, and
* must have an antenna mechanical down tilt equal to or greater than 0°,

**Limitation of UE emissions above the horizon**

NBN has previously raised concerns about the risk of interference from UE emissions above the horizon.[[27]](#footnote-28) In particular, NBN was of the view that only a small number of UEs, with their maximum EIRP directed simultaneously towards a satellite, could cause unacceptable interference.

The following considerations were made in assessing the risk of interference from UE emissions above the horizon:

* adaptive power control will mean that UEs will predominately be operating at transmit levels below the maximum.
* Elevation angles to NBN satellites will be within the range 40°-50° above the horizon for the majority of gateway footprint areas.[[28]](#footnote-29) For a base station to be directly between the satellite and UE (so that the UE would be directing its beam directly towards both the base station and satellite) the UE would need to be located close to the base station (e.g. 4-5m from a 6m base station, or 24-34m from a 30m base station) – see Figure 3. At these distances the UE transmit power would likely be well below maximum. Simulations conducted by the ACMA (results contained in Attachment A of this appendix) indicate that:[[29]](#footnote-30)
* UEs located 4 to 5 metres from the base station would always be at least 29.5 dB below maximum transmit power.
* For UEs located 24 to 34 metres from the base station, 95% would be operating below maximum transmit power. The UEs at these distances from their base station and operating at (or close to) maximum power would be doing so to overcome clutter losses on the path to the base station (the only UEs operating at maximum power where those located indoors which also needed to overcome building entry loss) – this same clutter (and building entry loss) would also apply to the interference path, resulting in lower interference to the satellite. Based on these simulations, the average clutter and building entry losses at these distances was found to be 28 dB.
* The only instance when a UE might be operating close to maximum power would be when there was clutter in the path to the base station. This clutter would also proportionally reduce the level of interference to the satellite. In situations where there is no clutter loss, UEs would always be at least 20 dB below the maximum transmit power.
* The main beam of the UE would not only have to have the correct elevation angle, but also be oriented azimuthally towards the satellite’s equatorial longitude for the maximum EIRP to be directed towards it. The probability of this occurring is very low.

1. Geometry of direct alignment between a UE and a satellite, for a 6m base station (top) and a 30m base station (bottom) – diagrams not to scale



40°

1.5m

50°

4m

6m

5m



1.5m

30m

34m

24m

50°

40°

Table 13 shows that the number of UEs which all need to be operating in a worst-case (and unlikely) configuration at the same time to cause interference to the satellite using the UE power level discussed above. The results in Table 13 are based on UEs all operating in a worst-case (and unlikely) configuration (pointing at the satellite with no clutter or body loss) at the same time.

1. Deterministic study on number of UE needed to exceed interference threshold

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Satellite G/T | - | |
| Satellite antenna gain | 56 dBi | |
| Path loss | 212.8 dB (FSL + P.676) | |
| Clutter loss | 0 dB (worst-case) | |
| Polarisation loss | 0 dB (worst-case) | |
| Body Loss | 0 dB (worst-case) | |
| I/N[[30]](#footnote-31) | -6 dB (for 0.6% of the time) | |
| Noise temp[[31]](#footnote-32) | 400 K | 1200 K |
| Aggregate interference threshold | -38.2 dBm/MHz | -43 dBm/MHz |
| Max IMT EIRP density | UE: 1 dBm/MHz (20 dB below maximum power of 22 dBm – from Attachment A (Figure 7), on paths with no clutter UE power will be at least 20 dB below maximum) | |
| Number of UE required to exceed interference threshold | 5271 | 15,814 |

Based on the above simulation, it is shown that it would take in excess of 5000 UEs, all within the same -3 dB footprint and simultaneously directing their beam towards the satellite, without any clutter losses for the interference threshold to be exceeded. It can then be concluded that the risk of interference due to emissions above the horizon from mobile UEs is very low given their transient nature.

It is acknowledged that the interference potential from fixed UE is likely to be higher than mobile UE owing to the static nature of fixed UE stations (i.e. interference will be long-term). To further mitigate the risk posed by fixed UEs it is proposed that the following condition be placed on spectrum licensed devices operating in the range 27-27.5 GHz within NBN gateway areas:

Outdoor fixed UEs must not direct their main antenna beam within 1.5° of the GSO arc when the antenna beam is pointed at elevation angles of greater than or equal to 3° above the horizon.

The above pointing restriction is only proposed to apply for UE antenna pointing elevation angles of 3° and greater above the horizon to account for the location of current and future FSS satellite. The 3° elevation angle is based on Article 21.14 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

### Attachment A to Appendix F – UE transmit power statistics

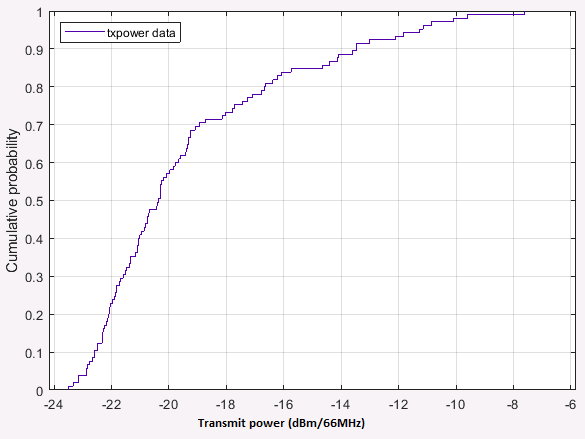
This attachment to Appendix F contains the statistical results of simulations for UE transmit powers at set distances from the base station.

For the majority of NBN gateway footprints the elevation angle to a satellite a 145°E will be between 40° and 50°. For a UE to be pointing at this elevation angle it would need to be situated at the following distances from its base station:

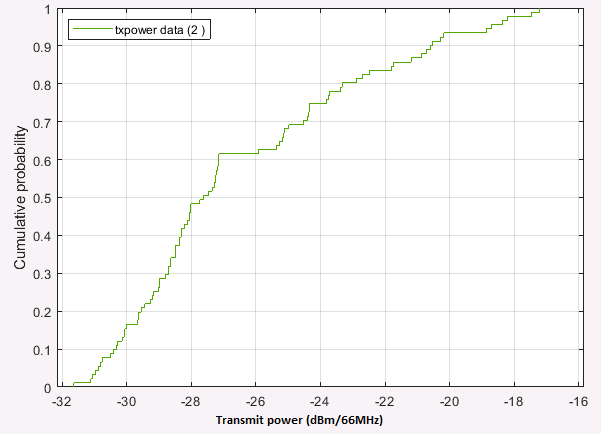
* For a 6m high base station:
* 4m for an elevation angle of 50°
* 5m for an elevation angle of 40°
* For a 30m high base station:
* 24m for an elevation angle of 50°
* 34m for an elevation angel of 40°

The following figures provide cumulative distribution function curves for UE transit powers for the above cases. Figures 4 and 6 include clutter in the signal path between UE and BS, while Figures 5 and 7 assume no clutter. The only scenario when a UE would reach maximum power would be when connected to a 30m high base station when there is clutter in the signal path. However, in this scenario, only 5% of UEs would be at the maximum power of 22 dBm/66MHz and these would be located indoors.[[32]](#footnote-33)

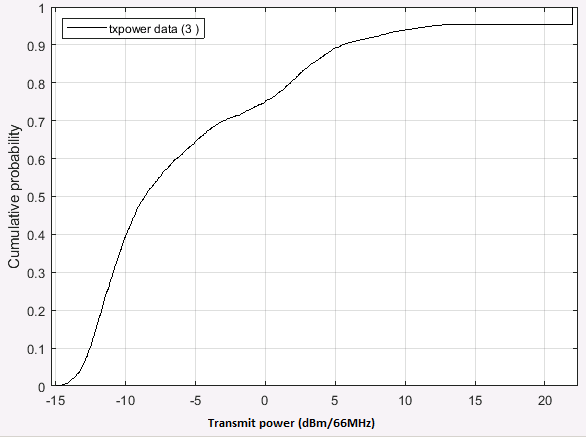
1. Transmit power for BS height = 6m, UE distance from BS = 4 to 5m, with clutter (assuming urban/suburban UE distribution model)



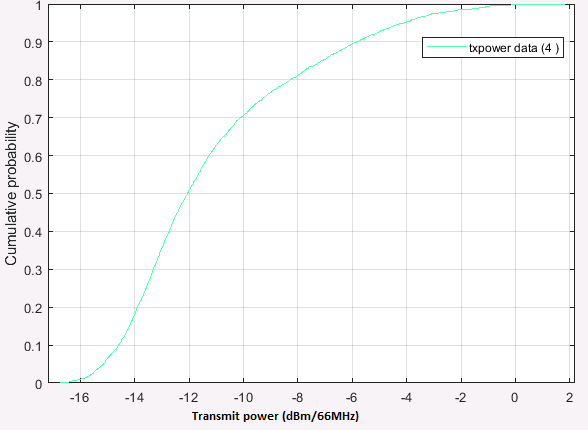
1. Transmit power for BS height = 6m, UE distance from BS = 4 to 5m, without clutter (assuming urban/suburban UE distribution model)



1. Transmit power for BS height = 30m, UE distance from BS = 24 to 34m, with clutter (assuming suburban – open space UE distribution model)



1. Transmit power for BS height = 30m, UE distance from BS = 24 to 34m, without clutter (assuming suburban – open space UE distribution model)



1. Refer to the [Radiocommunications (Spectrum Re-allocation—26 GHz Band) Declaration 2019](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01374) (the 26 GHz band reallocation declaration) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Refer to https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01374 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The ACMA is developing arrangements for ‘area-wide’ apparatus licensed services in the 26 and 28 GHz bands, optimised for the deployment of wireless broadband services. See the *Development of the 26/28 GHz band apparatus licence technical framework* TLG paper. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The fixed outdoor UE pointing restriction is only proposed to apply for UE antenna pointing elevation angles of 3° and greater above the horizon to account for the location of current and future FSS satellites. The 3° elevation angle is based on Article 21.14 of the ITU Radio Regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. See studies B and O in Attachment 3 to Annex 3 of Document [5-1/478](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0478/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. See ECC Decision (18)06 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. See [ECC Decision (18)06](https://www.erodocdb.dk/document/3361). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Available on the [ACMA website](https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-10/The%20Australian%20spectrum%20map%20grid%202012.PDF). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. See Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. See [Commission Implementing Decision 2019/784](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2019/784/oj) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. See Attachment 2 to Document 5-1/36 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. In Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. A proposed definition of ‘indoors’ is provided in the *Statutory conditions on the licence* section. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Assuming a 4x4 antenna array with an element gain of 5 dBi. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. See Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. See Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. See [*Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference — 3.4 GHz Band) Determination 2015*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018C00557)*.* [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. These UE antenna characteristics are provided by WP 5D, see Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. See the *Development of the 26/28 GHz band apparatus licence technical framework* TLG paper on the SharePoint site. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. See section 9.3.1 of 3GPP TS 38.104. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. This equation applies for 50, 100 and 200 MHz channels with 60 kHz sub-channel spacing, and 50 MHz channels with 120 kHz sub-channel spacing. For 100, 200 and 400 MHz channels with 120 kHz sub-channel spacing the equation is: EISREFSENS\_50M + 3+ ΔFR2\_REFSENS, which will give a higher sensitivity level for the same EISREFSENS\_50M value. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. See section 10.3.3 of 3GPP TS 38.104 for equations to calculate reference sensitivity from EISREFSENS\_50M. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. See Attachment 2 to Document [5-1/36](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0036/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. The Waroona earth station was used in this analysis as, being the closest NBN earth station to a major capital city, it will be the footprint most susceptible to interference from metro wireless broadband deployments. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. Whilst this could be considered as ‘double dipping’ on interference sources where the 3dB footprint overlaps the visible earth case, the ‘averaged’ interference from that overlap area in the visible earth case is not significant and doesn’t appreciably add to the aggregate (i.e. the assessed aggregate interference could be considered an over-estimate, but only very slightly). [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. Cities considered are Perth and Bunbury – areas obtained from Demographia World Urban Areas. This assumes that the nbn beam is directed slightly north of the Waroona (WA) earth station. It is noted that if the beam centred on the earth station then only approximately half of the Perth metropolitan area would be in the 3 dB footprint. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. See NBN’s submission to the ACMA options paper ‘*Wireless broadband in the 26 GHz band ‘* available on the ACMA [website](https://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/options-for-wireless-broadband-in-the-26-ghz-band). [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. Elevation angles will be higher than 50° in the remainder of nbn gateway footprint areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. Simulated deployment characteristics and propagation modules used were consistent with those agreed by ITU-R Task Group 5/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. Given the low probability that this scenario will occur, it is considered that the shore-term protection criteria from ITU-R Document [5-1/411](https://www.itu.int/md/R15-TG5.1-C-0411/en) is appropriate. The more conservative shore-term limit (for 0.6% of the time) is used. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. NBN indicated that their satellite network operates with a G/T value of 30 dB/K, which equates to a noise temperature of 400 K for a 56 dBi antenna. NBN’s quoted noise temperature value is at odds with the noise temperatures of 800 K and 1200 K listed on their 26 GHz band satellite network filings – For example, nbn filings CR/C 4574 (published 19 March 2018) and CR/C 2926 (published 22 August 2011) have noise temperatures of 800 K and 1200 K respectively. Noting this ambiguity, this analysis uses both noise temperature values of 400 K and 1200 K to provide the upper and lower limits. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. The UE emission bandwidth in this annex is 66 MHz based on the Task Group 5/1 assumption that 3 UE’s will be simulations operating in a 200 MHz channel with an equal spectral allocation (ie. 66 MHz each). [↑](#footnote-ref-33)