

## Sean McQueen

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**From:** Patrick Emery  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 March 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Brody; Stewart White; Sean McQueen  
**Cc:** Mary Stavropoulos; Matthew Bye  
**Subject:** RE: Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results. [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** Yellow Category

Hi Nic,

I'm happy with that approach – Stew's right that we'll probably get lots of ensuring correspondence, so may need to keep the option of an ACMA survey in our back pocket as a mitigation measure.

Regards,

Patrick

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**From:** Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 March 2020 12:23 PM  
**To:** Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>; Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>; Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>; Matthew Bye <Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results. [SEC=OFFICIAL]

I believe the best way forward is, once the WIA release their survey, for me to make contact with Mr Dunstan and ask him to consider the outcomes of the survey. I would reiterate that this is not a regulatory matter for the ACMA, and that we're looking to implement a change that would be supported by the amateur community, most preferably also by the two main representative bodies. If such consensus is not forthcoming, I would think it reasonable to conclude the WIA survey, given it's methodology and size, would appear to indicate the support of the amateur community is behind option 1.

Any issue with this?

**Nicholas Brody**  
Manager  
Spectrum Licensing Policy

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**Australian Communications and Media Authority**  
T +61 3 9963 6756  
M 0408 678 764  
E [nicholas.brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:nicholas.brody@acma.gov.au)  
[www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)



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*I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live. I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.*

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**From:** Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 March 2020 11:49 AM

**To:** Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>; Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>; Mary Stavropoulos <[Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au)>;  
Matthew Bye <[Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results. [SEC=OFFICIAL]

My 20c worth – To simply favour the WIA recommendation could open us up to months of correspondence and ministerial from those not aligned with the WIA. While we have a deed with the AMC to manage call signs for us, we require it to be attached to a licence. One way to resolve this could be to run our own survey from our website. That way we can rely on our own results and not those of the waring factions.

Cheers

Stewart

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**From:** Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 March 2020 10:34 AM  
**To:** Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>; Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>; Mary Stavropoulos <[Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au)>;  
Matthew Bye <[Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results. [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Sean,

I don't have any concern with the substantive proposal. However, and notwithstanding that the changes to the foundation callsign structure are necessitated by our own regulatory change, I think we need to couch any advice to the amateur community about this issue within a broader (strategic) context.

From a regulatory perspective – which should be our paramount lens – our only concern that operators of amateur stations are announcing their callsign as per the Amateur LCD. Subject to ITU requirements, the syntax of callsigns is not a matter of direct regulatory concern. It is essentially a matter of operational/behavioural protocol for the amateur community to consider.

In other words, I think it's important we start sending a message to the amateur community that it should not be seek ACMA imprimatur or resolution for the myriad of operational/behavioural issues that are of concern only within that community.

Regards,

Patrick

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**From:** Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 March 2020 9:43 AM  
**To:** Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>; Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>; Mary Stavropoulos <[Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au)>;  
Matthew Bye <[Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Bye@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results. [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Stewart and Patrick

The WIA has shared with us the results of its survey on call sign reform that would, inter alia, facilitate access to digital modes for foundation licensees.

Based on our discussion with Aiden and Greg from the WIA, Brody and I are of the view that the methodology for the survey was robust. The number of respondents appears substantial (2, 294), and the results indicate a preference amongst the respondents for option 1, whereby all licensees use a 3 letter call sign with no 'licence class'

identifiers (that is, the call sign does not indicate whether a licensee holds advanced, standard or foundation qualifications).

I note that this preference is contrary to the result produced by the survey conducted by RASA, where respondents indicated a preference for a new prefix (VJ) for foundation licensees: <https://vkradioamateurs.org/callsign-options-for-foundation-licences/> In his letter of 20 Nov 2019, Mr Dunstan indicated that the RASA survey attracted 974 responses.

The number of respondents to the WIA survey makes me inclined to favour its preferred option, and the efficiencies associated with a call sign for life also lead me to prefer this option.

I'd like to share the survey and our thinking with the AMC for a view, but am seeking your views before I do so.

Regards

Sean

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**From:** Sean McQueen  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 March 2020 10:40 AM  
**To:** 'Aidan Mountford' <[aidan@mountford.org](mailto:aidan@mountford.org)>; Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Greg Kelly <[gregk.altera@gmail.com](mailto:gregk.altera@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results. [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Aiden and Greg

Thank you for sending this through, as well as the information paper.

Based on our discussion on Friday, Nicholas and I are satisfied with the description of the methodology and process, and do not require further information.

We'd like to share the attached with the AMC. I trust that is okay?

We'll review these results and be in touch soon.

Kind regards

**Sean McQueen**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Spectrum Allocations Branch | Communications Infrastructure Division

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**Australian Communications and Media Authority**  
T +61 3 9963 6854  
E [Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)  
W [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)

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**From:** Aidan Mountford <[aidan@mountford.org](mailto:aidan@mountford.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 March 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>; Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Greg Kelly <[gregk.altera@gmail.com](mailto:gregk.altera@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Future of Amateur Radio: Poll #1 Results.

Nicholas,

Please find attached the results of the WIAs poll into callsign structure.

If the ACMA would like to review the detailed results this can be done under strict NDA.

The results demonstrates three things:

- The community would like the callsign structure altered - we request that the ACMA undertake to make whatever changes are required to support making 3 letter callsigns available to all operators prior to the end of March, 2020.
- The process used was well received and withstands scrutiny.
- The community would like their voices heard on other issues of significance to them, specifically, power levels across licence classes, and a new licence model

We look forward to talking with you tomorrow to address any questions you may have regarding this process and to discuss how the WIA and ACMA can leverage this process to further the Amateur Radio service in Australia.

Please note: These results are embargoed from public release until Monday next week, the 16th of March, 2020. We respectfully request that they are not distributed to any third parties without consent.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Kind regards

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**Aidan Mountford**  
FIML, GAICD, GIA(Cert)

[REDACTED]  
[aidan@mountford.org](mailto:aidan@mountford.org)