

## Sean McQueen

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**From:** Greg KELLY <gregk.altera@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 April 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Brody; Sean McQueen  
**Cc:** Patrick Emery; Stewart White; Aidan Mountford  
**Subject:** Re: Foundation licensees - call sign structure [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** Yellow Category

Hello Nicholas and Sean,

The preferred solution as proposed in the attached email (N.Brody 30 Mar 2020) of 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)" is **fully supported by the WIA**. The clear support for this option, approximately 3 times that of any other options was evidenced in the poll results.

The WIA does express some concern that AMC may be conflicted in their support or otherwise of WIA proposed solutions as their sole "technical advisor" is the RASA President. Whether this conflict is real or perceived is immaterial - the "optics" are far from ideal. The WIA and AMC have already held embryonic discussions on the formation of an AMC Radio Amateur technical advisory panel to include the WIA - these discussions were initiated by AMC.

However, in this case RASA has already indicated publicly in a (somewhat premature) news release that they fully support the ACMA preferred option - **hence the WIA is quite relaxed on this specific option**.

Thanks and Regards,

Greg Kelly

WIA President  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 4:14 PM Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear Greg and Glenn

I am writing to you both in relation to implementation of a call sign structure that can facilitate access to digital modes by foundation licensees.

As previously indicated, call signs are not strictly a regulatory matter for the ACMA, but rather a matter of administrative policy. Where the ACMA can assist in facilitating changes to the administration of call signs, we have a preference to do so with reference to the views of users of the system – that is, amateur licensees.

It is disappointing that the WIA and RASA could not agree on a single approach to canvassing the amateur community on implementation options. Nonetheless, the surveys conducted by both organisations have been useful on this occasion.

My colleagues and I have considered the representations of both organisations. Having regard to the survey results, and to our own views about the benefits and feasibility of the options, we have formed the view that 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) is preferable.

I intend to submit this view to the AMC for its consideration. I would prefer to do so with the mutual support of both the WIA and RASA. The timing of a discussion with the AMC is, as I am sure you can appreciate, a little uncertain. The COVID pandemic has required re-prioritisation of resources within the ACMA, and I am sure the AMC/UTAS are experiencing similar. With that in mind, I'd ask you to respond by Friday 10 April.

I want also to make both the WIA and RASA aware that I do not consider this process to have established a precedent for engaging with the ACMA on similar and future matters. The ACMA endeavours to consult widely and transparently in relation to regulatory reform, and appreciates the role of representative bodies in synthesising community views and providing coordinated responses. With respect to the implementation of administrative policy, I do not consider the conduct of competing surveys and the submission conflicting representations by the WIA and RASA to be an effective way for representatives of the amateur community to engage with the ACMA.

For future submissions on both regulatory and administrative matters for amateur radio, I ask that you make submissions to our annual consultation on the *Five-year spectrum outlook* (FYSO), which is the ACMA's principal tool for engaging stakeholders on spectrum management. As an agency, we allocate our people and resources based on annual projections of work. It is difficult for the ACMA to accommodate *ad hoc* requests for reform, and engaging with the ACMA through the FYSO process will allow us to appropriately allocate resources for amateur radio.

Kind regards,

**Nicholas Brody**  
Manager

Spectrum Licensing Policy

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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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