

## Sean McQueen

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**From:** Glenn Dunstan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 June 2020 2:54 PM  
**To:** Patrick Emery; Martin Crees-Morris  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Nicholas Brody; Stewart White; Mary Stavropoulos; Sean McQueen  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Patrick,

Will discuss with Martin and revert.

Rgds  
Glenn

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**From:** Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 June 2020 14:54  
**To:** Glenn Dunstan [REDACTED] Martin Crees-Morris [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>; Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>; Mary Stavropoulos <Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au>; Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Glenn,

Yes, that's correct.

Regards,

Patrick

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**From:** Glenn Dunstan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 June 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>; Martin Crees-Morris [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>; Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>; Mary Stavropoulos <[Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au)>; Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Patrick

Just to clarify, apart from the numeric issue, you support the other changes proposed in Martin's email below?

Regards  
Glenn

*Glenn Dunstan*  
*Advisor to the AMC*

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**From:** Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 June 2020 14:49  
**To:** Martin Crees-Morris [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Nicholas Brody <[Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au)>; Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>; Mary Stavropoulos <[Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Stavropoulos@acma.gov.au)>; Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Martin,

Thanks for your email. I can confirm the changes to remove the connection between the callsign suffix and licence class for three-letter suffix callsigns. This change has been subject of consultation within the amateur community, with the ACMA's position conveyed to representative bodies earlier this year. We also have no objection to the proposed approach for 2 x 1 callsigns.

With regard to 'interstate moves', it is important for me to clarify the nature of the advice provided previously to the AMC advisor. The advice was that there is no regulatory requirement compelling an existing amateur licensee to obtain a new callsign when the licensee moves interstate. This remains our position. (The regulatory requirement is for a licensee to update their station/contact details if they move interstate.)

However, we have not provided advice in relation to the broader issue of geographic identifiers in callsigns. Under the proposed approach below, there would be no geographic identifier for all new amateur licensees. While the ACMA is not opposed to such a change, we are concerned that, in the absence of consultation with and support from the broader amateur community, such a change would be contentious. For this reason, we request that this element of the proposed approach not be included until such time as it has been socialised within the amateur community.

This does not prevent the AMC from creating an interim 'new template'. We would support a revised new template that removed the 'licence class' connection but preserved the geographical connection.

Can you please advise as soon as practicable whether you wish to proceed with the amended revised callsign template as suggested above. We are keen to finalise this aspect of the callsign template very soon.

Please also note that this correspondence should be treated as confidential between the ACMA and AMC, pending resolution of the callsign template.

Regards,

**Patrick Emery**  
Manager  
Licence Allocation Section

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[acma.gov.au](http://acma.gov.au)

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**From:** Martin Crees-Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 June 2020 8:58 AM  
**To:** Patrick Emery <[Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au)>

Cc: [REDACTED]

**Subject:** REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE

Dear Patrick,

## **REVISED AMATEUR CALLSIGN STRUCTURE**

Having consulted with our expert advisers I write with reference to the correspondence from Nic Brody regarding proposed changes to the amateur callsign template.

As we understand it, you are proposing to remove the connection between callsign suffix and licence class for all three-letter suffix callsigns. That is, any grade of licence may have any three-letter suffix. Four letter suffix Fxxx callsigns, currently used for Foundation class amateurs, will no longer be issued.

Two letter suffixes will remain exclusive to Advanced class amateurs.

We also understand that any amateur permanently moving to a new State/Territory is no longer required to change their callsign to reflect their new location. That is, if a Sydney VK2 (NSW) station moves to Adelaide (VK5 - SA), they can retain their VK2 callsign.

This has effectively removed the connection between location and numeric prefix – of course, it has also reduced AMC revenue, as amateurs will not apply for a new callsign when moving interstate.

### A new callsign template

Changing the callsign structure will impose extra administrative overhead on our operation. Accordingly, we wish to take the opportunity to streamline the callsign template to provide maximum flexibility for users, ourselves and ACMA.

To the end, we propose the following:

#### *Group VK1-8 together*

The decision to remove the numeric prefix connection to location to be reflected in the new proposed template, with the exception of VK0 (Antarctica) and VK9 (external territories).

Both VK0 and 9 are known as “separate countries” in amateur radio parlance for award purposes. The mainland and Tasmania (VK1-8) can be grouped together – i.e. any location on the mainland and Tasmania may use any numeric prefix.

It is proposed that VK0 and 9 will still require an address to match the callsign.

#### *Free up the template*

Any class of licence is now eligible for any three letter callsign. It is logical to extend this philosophy to the entire template – that is, any three-letter block is available to any licence class, apart from repeaters and beacons, which will retain the Rxx series.

Grouping 1-8 together, along with allowing any three-letter prefix for any licence grade will simplify processes considerably.

No new Fxxx callsigns will be issued, however, it is proposed that holders of existing callsigns with Fxxx suffixes may retain their callsigns.

#### *Free up 2 x 1 callsigns*

The other area of simplification is in the composition of 2 x 1 callsigns. The allocation of 2 x 1 callsigns for contest stations was discussed and approved some time ago, however we have not progressed this because of administrative overhead.

The criteria for allocation of these callsigns was quite difficult, as it was always assumed that they were a limited resource (i.e. VKnA only) and the allocation process had to be equitable. Of course, this difficulty translated to complex administrative processing for AMC staff.

It is proposed to extend the 2 x 1 template by expanding it to the VJ, VK and VL prefixes, with the only criteria being that the callsigns be available to advanced stations, for use in contests and be limited to one callsign per licensee (club or individual).

The advantages of this are:

- the pool of available 2 x 1 callsigns is greatly increased, thereby allowing the callsigns to be used by many more amateurs, including newcomers (via a club station); and
- no extra complexity or processing for AMC staff – the callsign is treated like a 2 letter suffix callsign.

No changes are proposed to special event callsigns, or the AX prefix allocation rules.

The proposed templates (from Appendix 2 of the deed) are in the annexures attached below

Yours sincerely,

Martin Crees-Morris

**ANNEX A – PROPOSED CALLSIGN TEMPLATES**  
 (refer Appendix ii of the deed)

**Table 1 - Amateur callsign construction**

Prefix	Suffix
*VJ\$,VK\$,*VL\$ where \$ is the State/Territory Indicator. This is a number from 0-9 indicating the location in which the station is operating:  0 = Antarctica 1- 8 = ACT, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory 9 = Australian External Territories	Suffix of one, two or three letters.  See Table 2 for template details.

**Note:**

\*See table 2 for use of these prefixes

**Table 2 - Callsign templates allocated to the amateur licensing options**

Licence Option	Template
Advanced	VK\$aa, *VJ\$a, *VK\$a, *VL\$a
Advanced Standard Foundation	VK\$aaa-VK\$zzz
Repeater Beacon	VK\$Raa-VK\$Rzz

**Note:**

\*These callsigns are to be used for contest operation only and are limited to one per licensee (individual or club).

Martin Crees-Morris  
 Business Development – Engineering  
 Lecturer - MLM  
 Manager – OMC + Amateur Radio





CRICOS 00586B

University of Tasmania Electronic Communications Policy (December, 2014).

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