

## Sean McQueen

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**From:** Sean McQueen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 April 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** Stewart White  
**Cc:** Nicholas Brody; Patrick Emery; Matthew Bye; Mary Stavropoulos  
**Subject:** RE: Call sign reform [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** WIA - IFC 20 2019 pdf.PDF; WIA Information Paper - Foundation Call Signs.pdf; WIA - Future of Amateur Radio - Poll #1 - Results.pptx.pdf

**Categories:** Yellow Category

Hi Stewart

I understand that the WIA's preferred proposal (option 1 on the WIA info paper, attached) goes beyond the immediate requirement to facilitate 6 character call signs for foundation licensees, insofar as it would involve call signs no longer expressly indicating the qualification/certificate associated with the licence. So, a 'classless' call sign would be an option for amateurs applying for a new call sign, and those that have their existing call signs can keep them.

I agree that the wording of the option 1 in the WIA slide pack is a little vague, but the WIA has explained this option in greater detail on the information paper that was made available to respondents to its recent survey, and this is also consistent with its submission to our LCD consultation in 2019, also attached.

The two leading alternatives are the allocation of existing three letter blocks for foundation licensees (option 2 of the WIA info paper), or the use of a separate prefix for foundation licensees (option 3 on the WIA info paper). While RASA prefers option 3 – the use of a VJ prefix – this option received less support amongst WIA members than option 2. WIA is not of the view that option 2 is preferable for the reasons they set out in the info paper, and this was not an option aired by RASA in its survey, which instead put forward the removal of the link between call sign and certificate level (option 1), and the use of a separate prefix (option 3) (<https://vkradioamateurs.org/fl-callsign-survey-results/>).

We are alive to the concern that some amateurs are invested in the fact that their call sign reflects their attainment of a certificate level. But we are in this case attempting to respond to the views of respondents to both the WIA and RASA surveys, who are either very supportive (in the WIA survey) or at least not overwhelming unreceptive (given those choice of two options in RASA's case – 45.17% vs 54.83%) to a 'classless' call sign for life.

This option is also likely to have some efficiency gains for the ACMA and, based on a brief discussion with Martin, for the AMC.

I realise that this proposal may not be popular with some amateurs, but I think it's fair to say that nothing we do is capable of pleasing 100% of the amateur community. However, both the WIA and RASA conducted surveys that were open to the involvement of non-WIA and non-RASA members, and so I think it reasonable to form the view that those amateurs who are invested in this issue have had a chance to register an opinion.

In relation to your example tables below, these appear to accurately reflect the proposal, except we are not proposing to change call signs for repeaters and beacons – unless you are aware of a reason for us to consider doing so?



At the moment, this is our preferred option and our next step is to submit this to the AMC for a view.

If you and Patrick have any hesitations about our doing so, we be receptive to hearing them.

Cheers

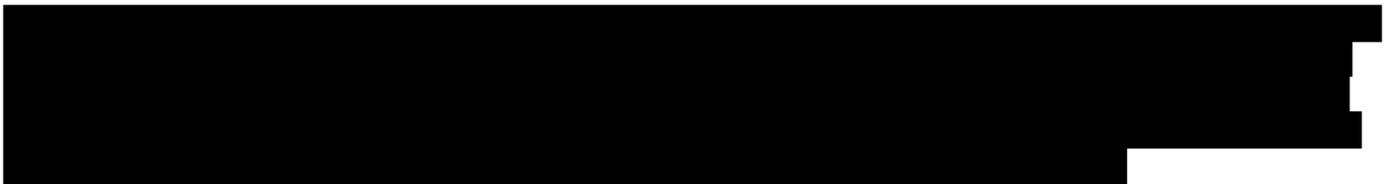
Sean

From: Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>  
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 9:18 AM  
To: Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>  
Subject: RE: Call sign reform [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Sean

Firstly, I don't have a problem with our approach, I just want to make sure we cover all the bases, including being prepared for 41% of the amateur community writing to us to complain 😞

Do you know if we are able to see the survey? While the WIA slide pack doesn't adequately describe their preferred option or the question put to their group, it is clear that Option 1 ("Permit any operator to have a 3 letter callsign") is the winner. Just to be clear, what we are proposing to do based on the WIA proposal is to change the call sign structure as follows and provide a call sign for life. Is this correct?



From this....

Licence option	Template
Advanced	VK\$aa, VK\$Aaa, VK\$Baa, VK\$Caa, VK\$Daa, VK\$Eaa, VK\$Faa, VK\$Gaa, VK\$Iaa, VK\$Jaa, VK\$Kaa, VK\$Oaa, VKRaa*, VK\$Saa, VK\$Taa, VK\$Uaa, VK\$Waa, VK\$Xaa, VK\$Yaa, VK\$Zaa, VK\$WI and VK\$WIA-WIZ (WIA), VK\$GGA-GGZ (Guides Aust), VK\$SAA-SDZ (Scouts Assoc.), VK7OTC, VK\$IYA - IYZ (International years)
Standard	VK\$Haa, VK\$Laa, VK\$Maa, VK\$Naa, VK\$Paa, VK\$Vaa
Foundation	VK\$Faaa
<b>Repeater</b>	<b>VK\$Raa</b>

To this....

Licence option	Template
Advanced	VK\$Faaa VK\$aaa VK\$WI and VK\$WIA-WIZ (WIA),
Standard	VK\$GGA-GGZ (Guides Aust), VK\$SAA-SDZ (Scouts Assoc.),
Foundation	VK7OTC, VK\$IYA - IYZ (International years)
Repeater	

Cheers

Stewart

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**From:** Sean McQueen <[Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au](mailto:Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 March 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** Stewart White <[Stewart.White@acma.gov.au](mailto:Stewart.White@acma.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Call sign reform [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Stewart – we are looking to go with the ‘classless call sign for life’ option, as per the WIA’s submission to both our LCD and to this new process.

Cheers