

Sean McQueen

From: Glenn Dunstan <president@vkradioamateurs.org>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 5:24 PM
To: Nicholas Brody; gregk. altera WIA President
Cc: Patrick Emery; Stewart White; Sean McQueen
Subject: RE: Foundation licensees - call sign structure [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks for the chat and the email, Nick,

As we all know, RASA and the WIA embarked upon a joint survey, which the WIA subsequently withdrew from. RASA's position has always been that we would support the outcome of the survey.

If the survey had come down in favour of the other option, we would have supported that.

I understand from our conversation that the ACMA considered the inability of FLs to use the AX prefix to be a major factor in your selection of the "any three letter suffix for any licence class" option, along with a desire to break the deadlock.

We respect your decision, and will of course abide by it.

Like you, I am also quite disappointed that RASA and the WIA could not agree on a joint approach.

I also strongly support your view that conflicting representations by the WIA and RASA are not an effective way for representatives of the amateur community to engage with the ACMA.

I also take your point on the FYSO being the most appropriate mechanism for consultation.

As I have long said, this enmity between RASA and the WIA has to stop, for the good of the sector.

My view is that Greg and I need to form a cross sector committee with representatives of our organisations to provide a coordinated input into the next FYSO.

Separate submissions are wasteful of resources and increase ACMA's workload unnecessarily. When all is said and done, the current situation serves only to disadvantage the end user...

The inability of the sector bodies to cooperate has effectively wasted five months. Five months in which FLs could have fully utilised their new privileges.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards
Glenn

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From: Nicholas Brody <Nicholas.Brody@acma.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 15:14
To: Glenn Dunstan <president@vkradioamateurs.org>; gregk. altera WIA President <gregk.altera@gmail.com>
Cc: Patrick Emery <Patrick.Emery@acma.gov.au>; Stewart White <Stewart.White@acma.gov.au>; Sean McQueen <Sean.McQueen@acma.gov.au>
Subject: Foundation licensees - call sign structure [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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,

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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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