

RESPONSE TO AMATEUR LICENCING CONDITIONS

CONSULTATION NUMBER IFC 01/2021

FROM. Client No 92949

VK2FF George McLeod
15 Rocklily Street,
HARRINGTON. NSW 2427.

The Manager,
Dear Sir,

Knowing the workload you will be facing, this response will be as short and concise as possible.

You will surely realise that achieving self management in amateur radio will be a task that will make the Mars landing seem simple. The prime difficulty being that from circa the 1970s the WIA has been on a mission to convert amateur radio from the hobby that came out of the very work of Marconi et al into some form of multi-band global CB service.

Keep in mind that the combined membership of the WIA and RASA still falls well short of a representative number, largely because of the WIA mindset that it was the representative of members only and has only recently decided to widen its horizons.

Amateurs were traditionally the first into the technology paddock and long before the internet, represented the largest collective of technical information on a wide range of subjects, not only radio related. Be very clear that it is a hobby activity (with respect to the need to refer to "service" as a requirement for entry to some international forums) and this allows research to be unfettered by commercial constraints.

Be equally clear that the principal raison d'être is bound up in experimentation and self education thus giving rise to the amount of influence the hobby had on the career choices and technological education of many people who contributed to our overall economy. The current CB mentality is having a negative effect on ever replacing any of these people.

Of course, not any of your three options are able to be accepted per se; Option 1 is clearly at odds with government policy and is there not an option, Option 2 has not any details and Option 3 clearly spells the end of amateur radio as we know it.

Regrettably ACMA is going to have to take the initiative in order to expedite a solution and my suggestion is that you announce something along the lines that due to the very real risks of public complaints and safety from such concerns as EMR it has been decided that the class licence will be introduced on the basis of an overall power limit of 100 watts with implementation being delayed for 12 months to give the WIA time to put forward a proposal for self management including the methodology for ensuring EMR compliance and on air behavioral monitoring.

Licenced since 1953 and now 85 I have witnessed many changes and fully accept that I am going against the world wide trend of dumbing down and transferring the skills from the individual to commercially provided options. In my mind nothing has changed, the work of people such as Phil Karn in the field of error correcting software is no different than the invention of the magnetic detector, only the canvas has changed! Just look at the difficulties facing the airline industry as pilots become more and more dependent upon computer based technology, ala 737 MAX! It will happen, but at a slower speed!

Whilst fully realising your desire to be consensus driven it is sometimes the role of government to actually govern.

Just accept my word that amateur radio is still a vital cog in our education process and indeed the economy so a cool head is vital and we look to ACMA to continue this role.

George McLeod