
From: Malcom Harrington <malcomh1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 5:54 PM
To: SLPSConsultations
Subject: Feedback on 'review of non-assigned amateur regulatory arrangements'

Hi

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. The opinions below are my personal beliefs and do not reflect those of any club or community.

I am in favour of the class licence proposal for non-assigned stations operated by qualified holders of an Amateur Radio Operating Certificate. There are however a few matters that I am concerned about:

1. Barriers to entry must remain in place lest the amateur bands suffer the same abusive, discourteous and ignorant behaviour and malicious interference exhibited on the CB radio bands. Amateur radio needs to be inclusive and available to as many as possible, but still exclude antisocial elements.
2. The Australian Maritime College have shown themselves to be incompetent to manage the allocation of callsigns, taking two to three months to do what the WIA used to do in less than a day. Other countries like NZ and USA reportedly take less than 24 hours to issue amateur radio callsigns. I suggest making the database for the allocation of callsign accessible to multiple trained and trusted individuals in RASA, WIA and amateur radio clubs to make the allocation of callsigns fast and potentially inexpensive.
3. AMC are also agonisingly slow at issuing examinations, marking examinations and issuing results. Under the previous WIA system, examinations were marked by the invigilators and results issued immediately. Together with decentralised callsign allocation, the AMC could be bypassed entirely with no loss of utility to the amateur radio operating community. Exam papers could be issued by amateur radio clubs or trusted volunteers.

Of course, the suggestions above require someone to develop and maintain the examination papers and callsign database. Perhaps this is a role AMC could undertake if they can meet reasonable timelines.

Cheers

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