

Proposed amateur class licence and considerations for higher power operation

Consultation questions & responses.

- Do you see any reason for not extending secondary user access to the 50–52 MHz band for Standard amateurs? If yes, what is your reason? (See section 3.)

I support 50-52Mhz access for all Amateurs.

- What are your views on the proposed policy on call sign transfer? (See section 4.)

I support the proposed policy. It may also be prudent to prohibit the sale of call signs, or any financial reward from the transfer of call signs.

- Will the proposed 'regular check' – to confirm whether a person is still using their call sign – be a sufficient method of ensuring there are enough call signs (in combination with other factors, for example, the high number of available call signs, deceased amateurs, most amateurs only wishing to hold one call sign)? (See section 4.)

In the interests of procedural fairness to the non-digital, there should be a paper based (ie. via Australia Post) method available.

- What are the benefits or disadvantages of our proposal not to limit the number of call signs that may be assigned to a person? (See section 4.)

It would be wise to impose a limit, to prevent the otherwise inevitable call sign hoarding. Possibly a limit of two per Amateur would be reasonable. Perhaps a limit five for clubs and/or incorporated bodies.

- Do you have any concerns with the other proposed call sign management arrangements? If so, what are they? (See section 4.)

No particular concerns.

- In the absence of amateur and station information being contained in the Register of Radiocommunications Licences, are there any amateur-operated registers or other existing voluntary registers that you would use? (See section 5.)

No, I would prefer to go deep and quiet.

- Do you anticipate any difficulties operating your station in Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations signatory countries? (See section 5.)

No difficulties.

- What are your views on the proposal to allow Advanced amateurs to apply for assigned scientific licences for certain experimentation uses, such as reflecting signals from a celestial body as well as intercontinental ionospheric and transequatorial propagation experiments? (See section 6.)

Quite an absurd idea, cost prohibitive, impractical, this idea is not going to fly.

- Noting the proposal mentioned in 8, are there other amateur experimentation uses that require higher power that you think should also be considered under assigned scientific licensing arrangements? (See section 6.)

See above.

- What are your views on the medium-term proposal to allow Advanced amateurs to apply for authorisation for other higher power use-cases under certain conditions? Please provide brief information to help us understand your view. (See section 6.)

The PEP power limit should be raised to at least 1.5kw, for all Amateurs. It works just fine in other countries.

- Is a 1kW power limit appropriate? Why or why not? If not, what alternative do you propose and why? (See section 6.)

1kw is a bit low given Australia's distance from the rest of the world. I'd like to see at least 1.5kw.

- Are there particular bands that you consider should or should not be able to be accessed for Advanced amateur higher power operations? Which band(s) and why? (See section 6.)

Cost will be a self limiting factor for most Amateurs wanting to use higher power, I don't see that bands need to be excised.

- What use-cases would require stations to operate at power limits for Advanced amateurs higher than the 400W currently permitted? (See section 6.)

Any area where Amateurs are striving for long distance communication, be it space or terrestrial, may require more power than is currently allowed.

- For each use-case mentioned in 13, please briefly answer:
 - Why is a higher power limit needed?
 - What are the specific limitations of the current power limit?
 - What power level is required?
 - What is the technical description of this power level requirements (for example, transmitter output power, emission mode)?
 - What amateur service frequency bands would be used?
 - How often will a higher power level be required?
 - What is the location of the station?

See above.

- Should potential higher power authorisations be limited by location, position, event or something else? (See section 6.) Please provide details to support your answer.

Higher power should be a general authorisation for all Amateurs, regardless.

In Summary:

I support the ACMA's class licence proposal. I would urge the ACMA to press on, and not be derailed by minority groups seeking to disrupt the process.

I would also recommend the ACMA look towards a single class of Amateur licence and thus remove the triplication that is currently in place due to three classes.

And a Thank You to the ACMA for running this consultation and inviting comments from **all** Amateurs, not just minority groups.

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