

Proposed amateur class licensing arrangements and higher power operation - consultation 31/2022

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide comment on your proposed 'Class Licencing' for amateur radio in Australia...

I welcome the Class Licence proposal and the amendment to allow **Standard** licence holders to access the **50 to 52 MHz band** – common sense!

WHAT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND is why are some HF bands are still off-limits – not only to Standard but also, arguably, to Foundation licence holders? That one might require a higher level of radio theory knowledge to operate say 30m and 17m and 12 meter bands is a ludicrous argument put forward by some die-hard amateur radio operators, who commonly argue “if I had to, so should everyone else’..... The level of theory required to operate in the various amateur radio HF bands is a nonsense now that Foundation Licence holders are permitted to build test and operate their own transceivers (within allowable power limits).

So please, I implore the ACMA to go beyond the 6m upgrade to include, at the very least, all amateur radio HF bands to Standard Licence – indeed to Foundation Licence – or merge Standard and Advance class licence ... thus have just two levels Foundation and “Advanced” or perhaps a more appropriate name. I do however support retaining lower power levels for Foundation operators...

I conduct most (95%) of my time on air using CW. so I really do not need any more than the 30w average power now permitted – I can work DX stations easily within 30watts pY - If you were to allow me to operate CW at 100watts – or even 400watts, I doubt I would ever do so.

Who am I? I am a retired Royal Australian Air Force Air Electronics Officer (AEO) (a now defunct aircrew category). Among many other roles, I was a radio operator on P-3 Orion aircraft operating 400-watt Collins 618T radios in CW, RTTY (encrypted) and SSB. I was also a Communications Instructor at the RAAF School of Air Navigation in the early 1980s... Unfortunately, despite paying them the \$70 fee to apply, the Australian Maritime College (AMC) refuses to recognise my mid-1970s Air Force training in radio and electronic theory and communications procedures. Theory that was not once called upon during my 4000+ flying hours as an AEO. I have forgotten most of it – but remain a competent radio operator... At my age I am not keen to bury my head in the level of theory demanded for the issuing of Advanced Licences.... Theory they don't use – and as I state in my comments above, theory that Foundation Licence holders do not necessarily know (it is not assessed, it is untested) yet Foundation licence holders may build, test and operate home brew transceivers.. the one aspect of amateur radio where I would have thought such theory 'might' be applicable. The required knowledge base seems stuck in the pre-digital age. If I need to recall an equation or how to apply certain aspects, there is a thing called Google and many on-line YouTube videos that cover everything an AMATEUR radio operator could ever need. A different story of course of professionally qualified technicians to whom I will take my COTS transceiver should it ever need repairs.

Thanks again for your time.

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