Addendum

Proposal to vary the Tamworth licence area plan – consultation 41/2022

July 2023

Canberra

Red Building   
Benjamin Offices  
Chan Street   
Belconnen ACT

PO Box 78  
Belconnen ACT 2616

T +61 2 6219 5555  
F +61 2 6219 5353

Melbourne

Level 32   
Melbourne Central Tower  
360 Elizabeth Street   
Melbourne VIC

PO Box 13112  
Law Courts   
Melbourne VIC 8010

T +61 3 9963 6800  
F +61 3 9963 6899

Sydney

Level 5   
The Bay Centre  
65 Pirrama Road   
Pyrmont NSW

PO Box Q500  
Queen Victoria Building   
NSW 1230

T +61 2 9334 7700 or 1800 226 667  
F +61 2 9334 7799

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Written enquiries may be sent to:

Manager, Editorial Services  
PO Box 13112  
Law Courts  
Melbourne VIC 8010  
Email: [info@acma.gov.au](mailto:info@acma.gov.au)

Summary

In December 2022, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) released a consultation paper regarding proposed changes to the [Licence Area Plan – Tamworth (Radio) August 1998](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2005B00629) (Tamworth LAP).

The consultation paper and draft instrument proposed a maximum antenna height of 40 m for the main transmitters of both 2TM and 2TTT commercial radio broadcasting services as part of an AM–FM conversion. The proposed maximum antenna height should have been 46 m.

We have conducted further engineering assessments and confirm that there is negligible difference between coverage, overspill and interference risk to details provided in the consultation paper. Specific findings are summarised below:

The combined coverage loss as a percentage of the Tamworth RA1 population remains consistent with the consultation paper. However, the underlying prediction modelling presents slightly different figures with an increase of approximately   
100 people using the ITU 15461-1 model and decrease by approximately   
130 people using the CRC predict model.

Overspill is predicted to increase by up to approximately 40 additional people in the Armidale RA1 licence area, and up to approximately 110 additional people within the Gunnedah RA1 licence area. However, this overspill remains a reduction when compared to AM overspill. There is no change to overspill figures to the Remote Commercial Radio Service North East Zone RA1 licence area.

Interference to the 2TM main transmitter is predicted to reduce by approximately 120 people using the ITU 15461-1 model and increase by approximately   
110 people using the CRC predict model.

There is a very minor increase to interference caused to the high-power open narrowcasting (HPON) service that serves Gunnedah, affecting less than   
20 additional people.

There are no other predicted effects resulting from the increased antenna height.

The draft variation instrument, Variation to Licence Area Plan – Tamworth Radio   
2023 (No.1), which would give effect to the proposed changes, has been modified   
and is available alongside this paper on the consultation web page. Specific modifications are:

Attachment 1.6 ‘maximum antenna height’ will increase from 40 m to 46 m.

Attachment 1.7A ‘maximum antenna height’ will increase from 40 m to 46 m.

# Invitation to comment

## Making a submission

We invite comments on the issues set out in this consultation paper.

[Online submissions](https://www.acma.gov.au/have-your-say) can be made by uploading a document. Submissions in PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format are preferred.

Submissions by post can be sent to:

The Manager

Broadcast Carriage Policy Section

Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box 78

Belconnen ACT 2616

The closing date for submissions is **COB,** **Wednesday 26 July**.

Consultation enquiries can be emailed to [BCP@acma.gov.au](mailto:BCP@acma.gov.au).

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