



12 May 2023

The Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems (AAUS) is pleased to provide this submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA) public consultation on the five-year spectrum outlook 2023-28 (FYSO).

About AAUS

The Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems is Australia's oldest and largest industry advocacy group for drones and the emerging Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector. AAUS is a not-for-profit organisation which represents the drone and AAM industry across three domains: land, sea, and air. AAUS' objective is to promote a professional, safe and commercially viable uncrewed systems and AAM industry. AAUS achieves this through its industry advocacy and promotion, education and outreach, and networking activities.

AAUS provides a single representative voice for the full breadth of the drone and urban AAM industry. AAUS' 3,000 members spans small-to-large enterprise, manufacturers, licensed and unlicensed operators, training providers, academic institutions, Government, and other supporting technical and professional services in the Australian drone and AAM industry.

AAUS Feedback on the FYSO

General feedback:

- We commend ACMA on its collaboration with CASA, industry and other emerging aviation technology stakeholders to develop a coordinated perspective on future spectrum needs.
- With the emergence of longer-range drones, advanced air mobility (AAM) and Uncrewed Traffic Management (UTM) systems, AAUS sees our sector moving quickly with respect to technology and spectrum needs. We encourage a continuation of proactive engagement with key stakeholders to keep ahead of emerging spectrum requirements for these technologies.
- Currently most commercial (and recreational) drone systems in Australia utilise LIPD frequency bands for short range operations. This currently suits these operations that are conducted within visual line of sight of the remote pilot.

- As the drone industry moves towards ubiquitous beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations inside the next 5 years, the LIPD frequency bands will not meet their communication needs. The emerging industry will need access to spectrum that enables long range control and non-payload communication (CNPC) as well as those that allow for the transmission of high-quality video and other data.
- AAUS supports provision to allow drones to use spectrum in 5030-5091 MHz band. We understand that this will be a global allocation which has benefits for organisations operating across multiple jurisdictions.

Contact

AAUS would be pleased to provide additional information to the Department on the matters contained in this submission. Please do hesitate to contact Reece Clothier, President ([REDACTED]) or Greg Tyrrell, the Executive Director, on [REDACTED].