

From: Glenn Dunstan
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments on changes to VHF marine channel arrangements [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 2 November 2023 12:21:01 PM
Attachments: [Copy of Proposed VHF Marine Channel Plan v8 2 22 Jan 2018.xls](#)

Hello [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] tells me that you are the POC for the VHF marine consultation paper. My
nts follow.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss further.

Regards
Glenn

I have no particular comments on questions 1-5.

Question 6

I was part of the ad-hoc working group formed by ACMA in 2018 to discuss this.

Broadly, there are three issues that need to be addressed:

Repeater channel allocation

As discussed in your paper, some duplex channels currently used as repeaters will transition to VDES use (satellite and terrestrial). Accordingly, given the popularity of VHF marine repeaters, there needs to be new repeater channels allocated and a prohibition on any further allocations on the channels planned for VDES.

Revision of the VHF marine channel plan

The WRC also created a new series of channels by allowing the existing duplex channels to be split. This necessitates a re-plan of the existing App. 18 channel use in Australia. The ad-hoc group did a lot of work on this and came up with an alternative plan – enclosed.

Prohibition on ships transmitting on the 20xx series channels

Appendix 18 note mm) restricts ships from transmitting on the 20xx series channels, due to interference to AIS receivers.

AIS is widespread in Australia, so there needs to be a regulatory mechanism to stop ships transmitting on the 20xx series channels. It is noted that there are already radios available on the market that allow access to *all* VHF marine channels.

As an interim step, it is suggested that ACMA needs to publicise the reasons for ships to not use the 20xx series channels.