



5 June 2024

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Via ACMA Website Submission

ABC submission to the ACMA consultation regarding:

Expiring Spectrum Licences: Stage 2

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above consultation which was released by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in March 2024.

The ABC, along with Australia's commercial free-to-air broadcasters, utilise Spectrum Licensed allocations in the 2.5 GHz "mid-band gap", in conjunction with Apparatus Licensed spectrum at 2 & 2.2 GHz for Television Outside Broadcast (TOB) use. These outside broadcast services provide a critical role in the ABC's capacity to capture and produce content and deliver against the ABC Charter mandated by the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* (Cth).

The 2.5 GHz TOB spectrum allocation continues to be an important part of TOB operations for the ABC, allowing the use of aerial platforms such as helicopters where this use is limited in the lower (2 & 2.2 GHz) allocations.

The ABC and the commercial free-to-air broadcasters essentially share their respective TOB spectrum through coordination. This coordination sometimes extends beyond the broadcasters to contractors and third-party companies. Infrastructure at TOB collection sites associated with metropolitan areas throughout Australia is also shared by the ABC and commercial broadcasters.

The ABC works with the commercial broadcasters to successfully manage coordinated access to TOB spectrum by satellite operators, resulting in geographic and temporal discrimination of the different services.

The ABC is therefore aligned with the commercial free-to-air broadcasters in a desire for continued access to this spectrum beyond September 2029. This submission reiterates and supports the views of the commercial broadcasters, represented by Free TV Australia, made in their separate submission to this consultation.

Yours sincerely

