

Submission  
2017-05-19 Stephen, Joseph – Amateur Radio Licenses

18 Yalanda Street  
Eden Hills SA 5050

19 May 2017

Response to 2017-04-19\_-\_radiocommunications\_bill\_-\_exposure\_draft.doc and 2017-04-19\_-\_radiocommunications\_bill\_-\_exposure\_draft.doc

Dear Spectrum Reform committee,

I understand that the government has just released the above two documents which if adopted would give ACMA and presumably the WIA more flexibility in the management of licensing of amateur radio operators in Australia.

There are two requests I'd like to make in terms of feedback regarding pricing and legislation particularly for Amateur Radio operators in Australia who may be affected by these changes.

1. Currently, ACMA stipulates that only equipment with a C-tick mark may be used on the UHF CB or 27 MHz bands. This is no doubt because they expect that the standard CB operator will not have the proficiency that an amateur radio operator is trained to have. This current stipulation thus excludes any amateur operator from using their amateur equipment on the CB bands since most amateur equipment is not C-tick approved, nor needs to be. I'd like to request that they relax this stipulation for licensed amateur operators so that they may use their existing equipment for voice transmission on the CB bands so long as they adhere to the wattage and channel spacing requirements of that class license, and do not use their amateur call sign. This would allow an amateur operator to use a single handheld to access both amateur bands and the UHF or 27 MHz CB bands if needed. This would be particularly advantageous to blind operators like myself who may only be able to obtain a single piece of accessible radio equipment to operate on these bands. Accessible equipment is usually more expensive than regular equipment and this places an unnecessary burden on amateur operators who will, by virtue of acquiring their license, act responsibly when transmitting.

The C-Tick requirement would still be necessary for non-licensed amateur operators, however a licensed amateur operator who operates within the frequency and wattage stipulations should be exempt from the C-tick requirement of the CB class license.

2. I'd like to request that you seriously consider encouraging subsequent family members to join the amateur radio hobby by making subsequent foundation licenses for the same family cheaper. For example, I have 9 children. I hold a standard license, VK5LDR. I'd like my children to obtain licenses once they have achieved proficiency. I would like to suggest that if one parent holds a standard or higher license, that children or spouse from the same family, who achieve proficiency for a foundation license be given a substantial discount on their exam and annual license fees.

Yours sincerely

Joseph Stephen VK5LDR

Submission sent to the ACMA

18 Yalanda Street  
Eden Hills SA 5050

19 May 2017

Response to 2017-04-19\_-\_radiocommunications\_bill\_-\_exposure\_draft.doc and 2017-04-19\_-\_radiocommunications\_bill\_-\_exposure\_draft.doc

Dear ACMA,

I have just skimread the above referenced draft legislation and pricing document. I understand that these may give ACMA more flexibility or at least streamline the licensing process for Amateur Radio operators. In drafting your response to this draft legislation and pricing document, would you kindly take into consideration my two below requests.

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1. Currently, ACMA stipulates that only equipment with a C-tick mark may be used on the UHF CB or 27 MHZ bands. This is no doubt because they expect that the standard CB operator will not have the proficiency that an amateur radio operator is trained to have. This current stipulation thus excludes any amateur operator from using their amateur equipment on the CB bands since most amateur equipment is not C-tick approved, nor needs to be. I'd like to request that they relax this stipulation for licensed amateur operators so that they may use their existing equipment for voice transmission on the CB bands so long as they adhere to the wattage and channel spacing requirements of that class license, and do not use their amateur call sign. This would allow an amateur operator to use a single handheld to access both amateur bands and the UHF or 27 MHZ CB bands if needed. This would be particularly advantageous to blind operators like myself who may only be able to obtain a single piece of accessible radio equipment to operate on these bands. Accessible equipment is usually more expensive than regular equipment and this places an unnecessary burden on amateur operators who will, by virtue of acquiring their license, act responsibly when transmitting.

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Joseph Stephen VK5LDR