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**Department of
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and
Communications
Canberra, Australia**

GSMA thanks the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for the opportunity to provide feedback on the exposure draft of the Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment Bill.

Licensed spectrum is essential to guarantee the necessary long-term heavy network investment needed for 5G and to deliver high quality of service. The risks surrounding network investment are significantly increased without the assurances of long-term, reliable, predictable, spectrum access. Licensed spectrum, which enables wider coverage areas and better quality of service guarantees, has been central to the growth of widespread, affordable mobile broadband services.

Reforms that offer greater investment certainty by means of reasonable licence durations, predictable renewal processes and reduced regulatory barriers are key building blocks for the successful rollout of mobile networks, which are essential for the social and economic benefit of the citizens of Australia. GSMA notes that, with the advent of 5G, these benefits are also pivotal for the development of Australian industries reliant on digital readiness and ultra-fast broadband.

GSMA particularly welcomes the proposed Act amendments in relation to:

- streamlining spectrum allocation and re-allocation processes: ACMA to have greater flexibility to develop fit-for-purpose allocation arrangements in order to bring spectrum to market within shorter timeframes where this is appropriate. GSMA notes that flexibility should not work to the detriment of well-established property rights for spectrum licences, in order to strengthen investment certainty as well as predictability to ensure continuity of service.
- improving flexibility and reducing regulatory barriers between licence types: the maximum licence term for both apparatus licences and spectrum licences to be extended to 20 years, with less regulatory barriers and more flexibility in the allocation process, and clearer processes governing renewal of licences.

GSMA also notes that, given the complexity and cost of decisions to acquire spectrum, authorities should provide market participants with as much notice as possible of forthcoming assignment processes and decisions. Timing is particularly important for spectrum renewal decisions as the earlier renewal takes place before the date of licence expiry, the lower the risk of investment being reduced or postponed because of uncertainty over the period over which the operator will be able to recover the costs of the investment.

Early notice of renewal decisions also enables operators to better plan for investment and service continuity. For example, if some spectrum is not renewed, operators may be able to acquire other spectrum or make network





investments that reduce the risk of service disruption to consumers. Therefore, reforms that strengthen the predictability and clarity of renewals are welcome.

GSMA looks forward to continue supporting the mobile industry in Australia and wishes the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications success in advancing the Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment Bill through the next steps.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Tarnutzer".

Brett Tarnutzer
Head of Spectrum, GSMA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julian Gorman".

Julian Gorman
Head of APAC, GSMA

About the GSMA

The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, uniting nearly 800 operators with almost 300 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies, as well as organisations in adjacent industry sectors. The GSMA also produces industry-leading events such as Mobile World Congress, Mobile World Congress Shanghai, Mobile World Congress Americas and the Mobile 360 Series of conferences.

For more information, please visit the GSMA corporate website at www.gsma.com. Follow the GSMA on Twitter: @GSMA.

