Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

2014/TEL50/PLEN/003

Policy and Regulatory Update - Australia

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia

APEC
CHINA 2014

50th Telecommunications and Information Working Group Meeting
Brisbane, Australia
29 September – 3 October 2014

APEC TEL 50 Working Group

29 September-3 October 2014 Brisbane, Australia

CONTRIBUTION FROM AUSTRALIA

Plenary

Australia's Regulatory Update

Please find attached Australia's Regulatory Update.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the TEL note the Regulatory Update.

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AUSTRALIA: REGULATORY UPDATE – OCTOBER 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

Government Policy on the National Broadband Network

The Coalition Government was elected at the Australian Federal Election on 7 September 2013. One of its key policies is the reform of Australia's communications sector, in particular the rollout of a high-speed network, the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The NBN will provide Australians with access to data download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) by 2019, with 90 per cent of the fixed line footprint receiving over 50 Mbps. NBN Co has been established to roll out the network, utilising a multi-technology mix that will deliver access to high-speed broadband to Australians.

The Australian Government has completed the following reviews to support the implementation of the policy:

- *NBN Co Strategic Review* - a review into NBN Co's rollout progress and costs, structure, internal capabilities, commercial prospects and strategic options;
- *Fixed Wireless and Satellite Review – a review into NBN Co's current and expected progress on serving the non-fixed line footprint, and options for NBN Co to meet policy objectives;*
- *A study of broadband quality and availability* – a study to guide prioritisation of the rollout of broadband services to underserved premises;
- *Independent Cost Benefit analysis and Review of Regulation* - a study analysing the economic and social costs and benefits of broadband to make recommendations on the future structural and regulatory arrangements for the sector; and
- *Independent audit into broadband policy and NBN's Co's governance* - an independent audit to examine the public policy process which led to the NBN and NBN Co's governance.

While it is agnostic on technology, consistent with NBN Co's Strategic Review, the Government expects the NBN to be predominantly fibre to the node, fibre to the premises, fibre to the basement and Hybrid-fibre Coaxial (HFC) with the remaining premises served by a combination of next-generation fixed wireless and satellite technologies. Fibre will be extended in circumstances where there is sufficient demand to justify its use, such as in business, industrial, health and education districts. NBN Co will provide fibre on demand to residences, provided it is technically and commercially viable to do so. Wherever fibre to the node is utilised, equipment will have the capacity to be upgraded.

The NBN is being built as an open-access, wholesale-only, layer 2 bitstream platform available to all access seekers on transparent and non-discriminatory terms.

The total capital expenditure is expected to be $30 billion to Financial Year 2021, with total public funding capped at $29.5 billion.

NBN Co's fixed wireless infrastructure will be leveraged to improve mobile competition among carriers in regional areas. The Government has also committed $100 million to improving mobile coverage, particularly in regional Australia.

The Government has in place a policy for the structural separation of Telstra, which will mean that Telstra will not own or control the access network by which it or its competitors deliver retail products.

Digital Dividend

Between 23 April and 7 May 2013 the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) auctioned spectrum in the 700 MHz and 2.5 GHz bands. All spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band was sold at auction. However, two lots of 15 MHz (30 MHz in total) remained unallocated in the 700 MHz band at the end of the auction (the paired frequency ranges 733-748 MHz and 788-803 MHz). The ACMA has submitted its report to the Minister on appropriate procedures for allocating the residual 700 MHz spectrum. The Minister is considering the ACMA's report.

The majority of spectrum licences for the 2.5 GHz band commence on 1 October 2014. Work continues to clear the digital dividend (700 MHz) spectrum of digital broadcasting services by 31 December 2014, thereby enabling new spectrum licensees to commence services on 1 January 2015. Successful auction bidders may apply to the ACMA for early access to digital dividend spectrum in geographic locations where digital broadcasting services have been cleared before 31 December 2014.

The ACMA has issued a number of scientific licences to facilitate trials in the 700 MHz band. Two Australian telecommunications operators have successfully run 'world first' trials using prototype equipment in the 700 MHz band. Commercial trials are occurring in a number of cities and towns, ahead of national 700 MHz spectrum licences officially commencing on 1 January 2015.

DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2013-2014

National Broadband Network

NBN roll-out

As of 11 September 2014, the NBN rollout had progressed to the point where it is now accessible to approximately 565,750 Australian premises, with around 213,479 premises activated. The fixed line network is available to approximately 442,847 premises with 192,040 premises activated; the fixed wireless network is available to 122,903 premises with 21,439 premises activated; and the interim satellite service has 41,842 premises activated.

Independent Audit of Broadband Policy and NBN's Co's governance

Independent Audit NBN Public Policy Processes (Scales report)

The Government appointed Mr Bill Scales AO to conduct an independent audit of the public policy process that led to the NBN.

On 5 August 2014, the government announced the outcomes of the audit report. The audit report identified concerns around the formulation of the NBN policy and made seven recommendations which will help future Governments in devising and implementing major infrastructure projects, similar to the NBN. The Scales report is published online on the Australian Parliament House website. A copy of the report published on that website at:

www.aph.gov.au/~/media/02%20Parliamentary%20Business/22%20Chamber%20Documents/223%20Tabled%20Papers/Documents%20Presented/Out%20of%20session/040814_audit_report

Review into Governance of NBN Co

On 14 August 2014, the Government announced the outcomes of a review into the governance of NBN Co conducted by KordaMentha. The review includes a number of recommendations for improving the governance of government business enterprises (GBEs). Key recommendations from the report include that the Government create governance guidelines specifically for GBEs, and that Board Performance Assessments should be undertaken by an independent, external party and report directly to Shareholder Ministers. The audit report is published online on the Australian Parliament House website.

The report is available from the Parliament of Australia website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/~/media/02%20Parliamentary%20Business/22%20Chamber%20Documents/223%20Tabled%20Papers/Documents%20Presented/Out%20of%20session/040814_audit_report

Cost-Benefit Analysis and Review of Regulation

On 12 December 2013, the Government appointed a Panel of Experts to conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis of broadband and review of the structural and regulatory arrangements for the future NBN environment.

The panel has reported back to Government, providing three reports:

- a statutory review of Part XIC of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*. Part XIC sets out the access regime by which telecommunications providers can access end-users connected to other networks;
- a review examining the most appropriate overall structure and regulatory framework for Australia's future broadband market; and
- a cost benefit analysis report, which compares the costs and benefits of alternative options for delivering high-speed broadband to Australian households and businesses.

The Government is currently considering the Panel of Experts' reports, and anticipates responding before the end of 2014.

Statutory reviews

In December 2013, the Government tabled three statutory reviews:

- an independent review required under section 151DD of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (CCA), conducted by Dr Ric Simes and Deloitte Access Economics. The review related to the statutory authorisations provided to NBN Co in Division 16 of Part XIB of the CCA to support its achievement of the policy of uniform national wholesale pricing (UNWP),
- a review required under section 151DC of the CCA, conducted by the ACCC, of the policies and procedures for identifying NBN Co's points of interconnection. and
- the ACMA Communications Report for 2012-13, required under section 105 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*. The report looks at significant matters relating to the performance of carriers and carriage service providers (CSPs), particularly consumer satisfaction, consumer benefits and quality of service.

On 20 March 2014, the Government tabled in Parliament two statutory reports by the ACCC on:

- telecommunications competitive safeguards for 2012–13, and
- changes in the prices paid for telecommunications services in Australia 2012–13.

On 16 July 2014, the Government tabled its statutory review of the telecommunications industry access arrangements in Parts XIB and XIC of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* and of specific elements of the *National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011*.

NBN Co Strategic Review

The Strategic Review, released on 12 December 2013, noted that completing the NBN under the previous specifications (i.e. FTTP to 93 per cent of premises and a mixture of fixed wireless and satellite for the remaining premises) would cost $73 billion (or $29 billion more than expected), and the NBN rollout would not be completed until 2024 (four years later than expected).

The Strategic Review recommended that the NBN rollout should be completed using a Multi-Technology Mix approach which would save $32 billion, can be substantially completed by 2019 and completely finished by 2020.

The Multi-Technology Mix approach will allow the NBN to be built in a cost effective way using the technology best matched to each area of Australia. It will make use of existing infrastructure where it is economically beneficial and consistent with NBN Co's broadband quality and speed objectives.

Updated Statement of Expectations

On 8 April 2014, the Government issued an updated Statement of Expectations (SOE) to NBN Co confirming that it should continue the NBN rollout using the Multi-Technology Mix approach recommended in the Strategic Review. The updated SOE provides NBN Co with the flexibility and discretion in operational, technology and network design decisions within the constraints of a public equity capital limit of $29.5 billion.

NBN Co will determine which technologies are most cost-effective and should be utilised on an area-by-area basis, taking into account factors such as existing infrastructure, geotype, population density and demand for high speed services.

Spectrum NBN's fixed wireless network

NBN Co currently holds spectrum licenses for fixed wireless broadband services in regional Australia, however there is a spectrum gap for homes and businesses in areas surrounding major Australian cities.

The *NBN Co Fixed Wireless and Satellite Review* recommended that NBN Co work closely with the ACMA on options to secure sufficient spectrum to address the spectrum gap. The ACMA identified that area-wide apparatus licences within the 3.5 GHz frequency band (3400 – 3600 MHz) may be suitable for the purposes of NBN Co.

On 21 August 2014 the Minister released, for public consultation, an exposure draft of the *Australian Communications and Media Authority (3.5GHz frequency band) Direction 2014* . The proposed Direction, if enacted, will require the ACMA to complete, by 30 April 2015, all steps necessary to enable apparatus licences of a type appropriate for use for the NBN to be issued in the 3.5 GHz band. This would enable the roll out of the NBN fixed wireless services to approximately 80,000 homes and businesses located in the affected areas, as quickly as possible.

Consultations on the exposure draft of the proposed Direction to the ACMA closed on 22 September 2014. Submissions received are currently being considered.

Spectrum Management

Digital Dividend

The term 'digital dividend' refers to the spectrum that has been freed up by the switch from analogue to digital television. Australia's digital dividend spans the frequency range 694-820 MHz.

Australia's digital dividend is a large, contiguous block of spectrum that was made available as a result of the switch to digital television across Australia which was completed in December 2013, and the subsequent restack of digital television signals to channels below 694 MHz which will be complete by the end of 2014. The re-allocation of this band is part of a worldwide trend of releasing digital dividend spectrum to allow greater use of this valuable public resource for mobile telephony and other wireless services.

In April-May 2013 the ACMA auctioned 90MHz of digital dividend spectrum (703-748 MHz and 758-803MHz paired) together with 140 MHz of spectrum from the 2.5 GHz band (2500-2570 MHz and 2620-2690 MHz paired). Spectrum was acquired by Australian telecommunications operators Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom. All spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band was sold at auction. However, 30 MHz of digital dividend spectrum (733-748 MHz and 788-803 MHz paired) remained unallocated at the end of the auction. This spectrum is referred to as 'the unsold lots'.

The ACMA is currently subject to two directions issued by the former government regarding the unsold lots:

- A direction that the spectrum access charge applicable to any future allocation of the unsold lots is the same as that applied at the time of the auction, that is $1.36/MHz/Pop; and
- A direction requiring the ACMA to report to the Minister by 1 September 2014 on the appropriate procedures for allocation of the unsold lots.

The Government is currently considering the ACMA's report on the unsold lots.

The Government expects the digital dividend spectrum to be cleared of digital television services by 31 December 2014, thereby enabling new spectrum licensees to commence services on 1 January 2015. Some bidders have been granted early access to digital dividend spectrum in areas where digital broadcasting services have been cleared, to conduct equipment testing and trials.

The ACMA have issued a number of scientific licences to facilitate trials in the 700 MHz band and the 2.5 GHz band. Two Australian telecommunications operators have successfully run 'world first' trials using prototype equipment in the 700 MHz band. Testing is continuing in an effort to have networks in place for licence commencement in 2015.

A comprehensive set of information about the auction, including the AIP, is available on the ACMA's engage website (www.engage.acma.gov.au/digitaldividend

Transition of wireless audio devices

Wireless audio devices – such as wireless microphones – also currently operate in the digital dividend spectrum range and must transition to alternate frequencies by 31 December 2014. The frequencies available for wireless audio devices after 1 January 2015 include the 520 to 694 MHz and 1790 to 1800 MHz ranges.

The ACMA is supporting the transition for wireless audio device users through education and awareness raising activities, as well as through resources such as an online 'frequency finder' to identify frequencies available for wireless audio use in each geographic region, and region-specific fact sheets. The ACMA has also made the necessary regulatory changes to support the transition.

Expiry of 15 year spectrum licences

Between 2013 and 2017, spectrum licences used to deliver mobile phone and broadband services will expire. The ACMA has completed its regulatory administrative processes for re-issue of the 800 MHz and 1800 MHz bands and has almost completed its re-issue consideration processes for the 2.3 GHz band. The re-issue process has collected approximately $1.6 billion since it began in 2013.

The ACMA has proposed re-planning arrangements for spectrum licences in the 3.5 GHz (3400-3600 MHz) and 27 GHz bands. The proposed re-planning arrangements are intended to allow for greater flexibility in response to international developments.

Spectrum that is not subject to re-issue will be allocated via a price-based allocation process, for example, an auction process.

Information on the ACMA's processes for considering the possible re-issue of expiring spectrum licences is provided on its website at http://www.acma.gov.au/Industry/Spectrum/Radiocomms-licensing/Spectrum-licences/expiring-spectrum-licences-i-acma.

Spectrum for Public Safety Agencies

The Australian Government is working closely with Australian states and territories to determine the most efficient and effective way to deliver a nationally interoperable mobile broadband capability for public safety agencies (PSAs). The ACMA previously worked with the PSAs to identify a quantum of spectrum from the 800 MHz band to support this capability. In 2012, the ACMA announced it would reserve 10 MHz of spectrum in the 800 MHz frequency band for the deployment of a nationally interoperable public safety mobile broadband (PSMB) network. This public safety allocation is in addition to 50 MHz from the 4.9 GHz band for high capacity Wi-Fi coverage and replanning of the 400 MHz band for dedicated government voice and narrowband operations.

Following the decision to reserve 10 MHz for dedicated PSMB networks, the Australian Government made a commitment to undertake a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) on the best way to deliver the PSMB capability. The CBA is yet to be commenced and spectrum considerations for PSMB will not be able to be finalised until the outcomes of the CBA are known, as spectrum requirements will ultimately depend on the delivery model for the capability. If the models recommended by the CBA indicate a need for a specific quantum of dedicated spectrum, the ACMA will seek to accommodate these needs as part of its current review of the 800 MHz band.

Review of the 2.5 GHz band and long-term arrangements for Electronic News Gathering

The 2.5 GHz band (2500-2690 MHz) is currently used primarily by free-to-air broadcasters for electronic news gathering (ENG). The band was identified internationally for broadband wireless access services in 2000.

Spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band (2500-2570 MHz and 2620-2690 MHz) was auctioned in combination with digital dividend spectrum (700 MHz band) in April-May 2013. In February 2012, the then Minister designated the 2.5 GHz mid-band gap (2570-2620 MHz) to be allocated by issuing spectrum licences to support Australia-wide ENG applications.

In December 2012 the ACMA made the *Radiocommunications Spectrum Conversion Plan (2.5 GHz Mid-band Gap) 2012* which set out the procedures and timetable for issuing spectrum licences to replace existing apparatus licences in the 2.5 GHz mid-band gap. In August 2013 the ACMA made the

Radiocommunications (Spectrum Access Charges — 2.5 GHz Mid-band Gap) Determination 2013 which set out the spectrum access charge payable for new spectrum licences. The ACMA has completed the conversion process and new spectrum licences will commence on 1 October 2014. The ACMA is also developing arrangements to support the introduction of ENG services in alternative spectrum bands.

Spectrum Review, including the Radiocommunications Act 1992 and subordinate regulation

Established in 1992, the Radiocommunications Act and associated arrangements introduced significant market elements to the regulation of radiocommunications in Australia. As a result, the current spectrum regulatory regime can be characterised as a 'mixed' approach – with centralised planning, allocation and interference management; increasing marketisation through tradable licences and conditions of third-party access and reuse; and open-access or 'commons' arrangements for more flexible and localised services. Although this approach has proven successful, increasing demand and the pace of technological innovation, combined with service and market convergence, is posing challenges for the framework.

The spectrum policy and management framework is being reviewed during 2014 to examine how it can be improved for the future. Announced by the Minister on 23 May 2014, the review is expected to take 6-9 months to finalise. The goal of the review is to maximise the benefit spectrum delivers to the Australian community by improving efficiency in the management and use of spectrum, providing greater flexibility to support choice for users and technology and service innovation, reducing complexity and cost and increasing transparency in decision-making.

Broadcasting

Future use of Broadcasting Spectrum and Relaxation of Transmission Restrictions

On 10 September 2014, the Minister for Communications announced a number of proposals to ensure that Australia's broadcasting spectrum policy framework is fit-for-purpose for the next wave of innovation in the media sector.

As part of these proposed reforms, the Australian Government would permit commercial and national television broadcasters to use their allocated broadcast spectrum more flexibly and more efficiently in providing services. More flexible regulatory arrangements would allow free-to-air broadcasters to determine for themselves the appropriate mix of services and formats for their audiences, including whether to use standard definition or high definition.

The Government would also encourage commercial and national television broadcasters to commence a transition from the MPEG-2 compression standard to the more efficient MPEG-4 standard, with the aim that every service would move to MPEG-4. This would allow broadcasters to deliver more channels and content in high-bandwidth formats such as high definition, if they chose to do so. To maximise the increased spectrum efficiency offered by the move to MPEG-4 only broadcasting, the Government would encourage spectrum sharing among television broadcasters, with the national broadcasters to lead the way.

In order to assist broadcasters in making this transition, from 2016 the Government would make the 'sixth channel' of broadcast spectrum available for use in testing and migrating to MPEG-4. Australia's community television broadcasters, which currently have temporary use of sixth channel spectrum in the five mainland state capital citieswill have their licenses extended for a final 12 months to 31 December 2015, after which they will transition to exclusively online distribution.

Changes to ACMA investigations

As part of measures introduced in the Australian Government's Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2014) Bill 2014 (the Repeal Day Bill), the ACMA's statutory duty to investigate certain complaints is to be replaced with a discretion to investigate the complaint if the ACMA considers it is desirable to do so.

Broadening its discretion to not investigate a complaint allows the ACMA to take no further action for complaints that are misconceived, trivial, stale, or would inappropriately divert the resources of the ACMA, the service provider or broadcaster concerned, or the complainant. This will allow the ACMA to focus its resources on complaints of a more serious nature, including those that might indicate systemic problems or would be in the public interest to pursue.

This Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and is likely to take effect in October 2014.

Changes to control notifications and audit requirements

The Repeal Day Bill also includes measures to streamline broadcasters' control reporting obligations under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (BSA). These measures remove the requirement for commercial broadcasting licensees, specified datacasting licensees and newspaper publishers to notify the ACMA of particular control details within three months after the end of each financial year. This amendment will reduce duplication of control change notifications, as other provisions of the BSA require these parties to make 'ad-hoc' notifications when control changes actually occur. The Bill also extends the deadline for these contemporaneous notifications from five to ten days after the change of control.

Other changes to administrative requirements

Additionally, the Repeal Day Bill provides the ACMA with a power to make a legislative instrument exempting classes of licensees from the BSA's requirement to submit audited balance sheets and audited profit and loss accounts. This measure will allow the ACMA to reduce the regulatory burden on broadcasting licensees by allowing certain broadcasters to avoid the audit obligation in circumstances where the Authority believes that such audits are not necessary.

The ACMA is also reducing content reporting and recordkeeping obligations affecting commercial television broadcasting licensees, including removing the requirements to lodge notifications about children's television programs and to report on regional local content. Regional commercial radio broadcasting licensees will also benefit from reduced local content reporting and recordkeeping obligations.

Digital Radio

The Government has conducted two statutory reviews into digital radio. These reviews are considering issues around digital radio transmission technologies, including their implementation internationally; spectrum use for digital radio, including the availability of additional frequencies for digital radio and restricted datacasting; licensing and regulation of digital radio and restricted datacasting services; and the effectiveness of the ACCC multiplex access regime. Fifteen public submissions have been received in response to a discussion paper from parties including the ABC, ACCC , Australian Narrowcast Radio Association, Broadcast Australia, Commercial Radio Australia, Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, Rebel Media and SBS. The Minister for Communications expects to report to the Parliament on the reviews in the second half of 2014.

Release of policy paper on media ownership

On 11 June 2014, the Department of Communications released *Policy Background Paper No. 3: Media Control and Ownership*. Publication of the paper is intended to encourage and inform public discussion about media ownership in the digital environment. The paper provides background information about Australia's current regulation of media ownership, and also takes a high-level look at the potential impacts of removing individual control rules. It does not contain specific recommendations or options for potential regulatory reform.

Technical Regulation

The ACMA has responsibility for technical regulation under the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*; the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* and the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

The *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* (the LIA) introduced a regime that includes registration and sunsetting of Commonwealth delegated legislation including the labelling instruments and regulatory standards that define and support the ACMA's technical regulatory arrangements. One impact of the LIA on technical regulation is that a number of the supporting instruments automatically sunset at a time 10 years from their original determination or incorporation onto the federal register of legislative instruments. The LIA process allows for the gradual sunsetting of legislative instruments unless particular steps are taken to preserve them. This keeps legislative instruments up to date and in force only for as long as needed. The ACMA will be reviewing each of its instruments scheduled for sunsetting before the relevant sunsetting date and will move to continue those instruments that are operating effectively and efficiently. Some ACMA instruments will fall due for review in 2015 including those that underpin its telecommunications regulatory arrangements for equipment supply.

In September 2014 the ACMA remade the *Radiocommunications (Compliance Labelling – Devices) Notice 2014* (the RLN) under section 182 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (the Act), eight radiocommunications technical standards (ACMA standards) made under section 162 of the Act and the *Radiocommunications (Accreditation Body) Determination 2014* (Accreditation Body Determination) made under section 183 of the Act. The RLN, eight ACMA standards and the Accreditation Body Determination were due to sunset on either 1 April 2015 or 1 October 2015.

Another seven radiocommunications technical standards made under section 162 of the Act are due to sunset between 2017 and 2022. The ACMA will review these in 2016.

Technical standards, industry codes and industry standards for digital television

The ACMA has powers under Parts 9A and 9B of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the BSA) to determine technical standards for digital television. The ACMA has determined two mandatory technical standards for digital terrestrial television services. These standards are:

- *Broadcasting and Datacasting Services (Parental Lock) Technical Standard 2010* ; and
- Broadcasting *Services (Digital Television Format – Audio Component – Transmissions in SDTV Digital Mode) Technical Standard 2007.*

The ACMA does not consider it necessary to introduce any other mandatory standards at this time given the high levels of conformity with the voluntary industry standards for reception and transmission equipment. Current versions are:

- AS 4599.1-2011-Digital television - Terrestrial broadcasting - Characteristics of digital terrestrial television transmissions
- AS 4933.1-2010_ Digital television - Requirements for receivers - VHF/UHF DVB-T television broadcasts.
    - These two Australian standards are currently under review by Standards Australia and new versions are expected shortly.

Review of telecommunications customer equipment and customer cabling regulatory arrangements

The ACMA is undertaking a review of the Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Notice 2001 (the TLN) and technical standards made under section 376 of the Telecommunications Act (ACMA standards). The review arises in part from the sunsetting arrangements introduced by the LIA which would see the TLN and a number of associated ACMA standards sunset in April 2015 if not reviewed and remade. The TLN specifies the labelling and record keeping requirements for importers and manufacturers of telecommunications customer equipment and customer cabling for the Australian market and outlines the applicable standards for these items.

In February 2013, a discussion paper was released for public comment on the existing arrangements, the rationale for the review and the ACMA's proposed policy direction for the changes to the TLN.

A consultation paper including a draft proposed TLN was circulated for public comment on 16 July 2014. Consultation closed on 19 September. The paper examined the evolution of the TLN arrangements and the marketplace, and assessed the ongoing issues and risks that the arrangements seek to manage. The proposed TLN was significantly restructured to increase readability and decrease the complexity of the arrangements. Changes were proposed in respect of record keeping requirements, paths to conformity (i.e. the use of alternative compliance paths) and the number of applicable standards with some of the now redundant older technology standards having been removed

The consultation paper concluded that, a TLN-based scheme still provides an efficient and effective mechanism for addressing some key risks associated with customer equipment and customer cabling, but a substantial modernisation of the arrangements is warranted. The proposed approach

would have a number of benefits including better targeted regulation, greater transparency and a reduced regulatory burden on industry.

The ACMA is currently considering the written submissions received for the recent consultation process and will revise the proposed TLN as appropriate.

The ACMA aims to make a new TLN instrument by end of the 2014 calendar year.

RELEVANT WEBSITES

Department of Communications:

www.communications.gov.au

www.digitalready.gov.au

NBNCo: *www.nbnco.com.au*

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA): *www.acma.gov.au*