



Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Government of Western Australia

Our ref: 25936

Mr Kelvin Thomson MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Mr Thomson

FINAL ACTS (Wrc-07), WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (GENVEVA 2007)

Thank you for your letter dated 16 September 2008, advising of the treaties tabled on 25 June 2008 and inviting comments from the Western Australian Government regarding the above treaty.

Please accept these comments as advised by the Western Australian Office of e-Government, Office of State Security and Emergency Coordination and Western Australian Police. It should be noted that these comments are provided without prejudice, and do not represent the view of the Western Australian Government.

Matters arising from the 2007 World Radiocommunications Conference in Geneva (WRC-2007) have been canvassed publicly through the Australian Communications and Media Authority (AMCA), who released a draft of a new Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan (the Spectrum Plan) for comment in August 2008. When completed, the new Spectrum Plan is intended to replace the current Spectrum Plan developed in January 2005.

The proposed changes in the draft Spectrum Plan, which are those agreed internationally at WRC-2007, provide new spectrum opportunities for international mobile telecommunication, space research activities, radio astronomy, mobile-satellite services and harmonisation between space and future terrestrial services. The proposed changes from WRC-2007 have been evaluated by the national Law Enforcement Security Radio Spectrum Committee (LESRSC), responding to ACMA in July 2008 on some previously released spectrum review papers, which made reference to WRC-2007. On the proposed change concerning "Identification of new bands for International Mobile Telecommunications", which includes the 450-470 MHz band, LESRSC comments:

"Among the spectrum used by Police forces is a pair of 1.6 MHz wide slots within the 450-470 MHz band known as the Law Enforcement and Public Safety (LEPS) spectrum. Currently LEPS spectrum facilitates cross jurisdictional communications. In addition, jurisdictions use a number of frequencies (11) in the 480-490 MHz band for National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC) operations.

Following the WRC-2007, the 450-470 MHz spectrum has been identified on a global basis for IMT2000 applications. If 450-470 MHz is set aside for IMT2000 applications, Law Enforcement and

Security agencies will lose access to 450-470 MHz spectrum. This impacts on interoperability capability for cross jurisdictional communications.

In the absence of clear direction on future spectrum allocations, jurisdictions continue to invest to maintain and/or enhance their existing systems. As such, Federal Government should sufficiently assist any relocation following the current spectrum reform. Otherwise an average, 7 years may be required to relocate the existing systems."

WA Police are represented on LESRSC, and have reiterated their concern over this proposed change. WA Police highlight that the 450-470 MHz band is common for all law enforcement agencies in Australia, and particularly for WA there is a significant investment in communications systems operating in this band. There is a view that there would need to be a substantial lead time (for example, the 7 years suggested by LESRSC) in planning to move out of this band if it is to be re-allocated for international mobile communications as proposed by WRC-2007.

Yours Sincerely



David Smith

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

23 OCT 2008