



IRCa

Indigenous Remote
Communications Association

Remaking the Radiocommunications
(Register of Radiocommunications Licences
Determination 1997)

IRCA Submission

July 2017



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Submission

This Submission is made simply to acknowledge that the Indigenous Remote Communications Association has considered the content of the Consultation Paper and has no specific matters it wishes to raise.

Consultation Points	Comment
Stakeholder comment on the proposal to remake the Radiocommunications (Register of Radiocommunications Licences) Determination 1997 with the proposed minor amendments, and without any significant changes, on the basis that the instrument is operating effectively and efficiently.	The Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) acknowledges the high value of the Register and its availability online. IRCA welcomes the remaking of the Determination with minimal revision.
Comment from affected stakeholders on its proposal to make a consequential variation to the Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2 GHz Band) Determination 2016.	IRCA notes that this change is simply a variation to allow correct referencing between the proposed Radiocommunications Determination and the Radiocommunications (Unacceptable Levels of Interference – 2 GHz Band) Determination 2016.

Daniel Featherstone
General Manager
Indigenous Remote Communications Association
10 July 2017

Background

1 About the Indigenous Remote Communications Association

The Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) is the peak body for Indigenous media and communications. It was founded in 2001 as the peak body for remote Indigenous media and communications. In late 2016 it transitioned to the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasting, media and communications.

Up to 105 Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services (RIBS), 33 additional licensed retransmission sites across Australia, 8 Remote Indigenous Media Organisations (RIMOs) and 28 urban and regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander radio services are eligible for representation by IRCA.

2 About the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasting and media sector

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasters are not-for-profit community organisations providing a primary and essential service to their communities. They reach nearly 50% of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, but are prevented from providing a primary radio service to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples due to a lack of funding.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasters and media producers also connect non-Indigenous communities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture, developing greater understanding and building stronger relationships.

The sector:

- Comprises:
 - Radio services able to reach around 320,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, including around 100,000 very hard to reach people in remote Indigenous communities, or approximately 47% of the Australian

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

- A regional satellite TV service reaching 240,000 remote households and a free to air national TV service.
- Over 230 radio broadcast sites across Australia.
- Is a multimillion dollar industry with over 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community owned and managed not for profit media organisations.
- Holds the capacity to be a preferred supplier for all government messaging to our communities.
- Is the most relevant and appropriate service with the highest listenership, community engagement and local ownership of all media services.
- Is delivered in the first language of many remote peoples.
- In remote communities, is the most reliable and ubiquitous radio and media services.

2. Disclaimer

This submission is made by the Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) in its own right. It is expected that some radio services. RIBS and RIMOs will make individual submissions in which case the IRCA Submission should not be taken to displace those submissions.