\_\_\_\_ May 2019

To: The Manager

Strategy and Transition Section

Spectrum Review Implementation Branch

Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box Q500

Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230

**Via On Line:** <http://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/Consultations/Consultations>

Subject: Comments to ACMA Five-year spectrum outlook 2019–23, spectrum management work program-consultation draft

**COMMENTS OF IEEE 802**

1. IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee (LMSC) respectfully submits these responses to the Australia Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
2. IEEE 802 LMSC is a leading consensus-based industry standards body, producing standards for wireless networking devices, including wireless local area networks (“WLANs”), wireless specialty networks (“WSNs”), wireless metropolitan area networks (“Wireless MANs”), and wireless regional area networks (“WRANs”). We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to ACMA.
3. IEEE 802 is a committee of the IEEE Standards Association and Technical Activities, two of the Major Organizational Units of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). IEEE has about 420,000 members in about 190 countries and supports the needs and interests of engineers and scientists broadly. In submitting this document, IEEE 802 acknowledges and respects that other components of IEEE Organizational Units may have perspectives that differ from, or compete with, those of IEEE 802. Therefore, this submission should not be construed as representing the views of IEEE as a whole.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**COMMENTS**

1. In general terms, we believe that global harmonization of spectrum allocation is important for a number of reasons:

* In a world where international travel is the norm, protection of licensed radio operations demands control of radio frequency devices as a customs function
* Australian tourism is best served by having travelers’ wireless devices operating as they do at home
* With wireless connectivity and applications growing at an accelerated pace, cost of devices is reduced by economies of scale when all international requirements are met with a minimum of different RF bands to be served, each with an incremental cost.
  + Cellular radios of the current model of Apple iPhone supports FDD-LTE (Bands 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 66), TD-LTE (Bands 34, 38, 39, 40, 41), TD-SCDMA 1900 (F), 2000 (A), CDMA EV-DO Rev. A (800, 1900, 2100 MHz), UMTS/HSPA+/DC-HSDPA (850, 900, 1700/2100, 1900, 2100 MHz), GSM/EDGE (850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz)
  + Wi-Fi® [1] and Bluetooth radios support 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and upper 5 GHz bands

1. In terms of the specific RF bands discussed in the ACMA 5-year Outlook:

* Both the United States and European Union are in the process of making some or all of the 3.4–3.575 GHz and the 3700 MHz to 4200 MHz bands available for 5G technologies, so in the interests discussed in the general terms above, ACMA should consider the value of harmonization of these bands
* The 900 MHz (890–915MHz and 935–960MHz) bands continue to support many consumer products, and will increasingly serve IoT applications as the best band for range versus power benefits these applications require
* In regards to Question 4 and re-farming of bands, since 2011, ACMA has considered the possibility of re-farming the 803-960 MHz ([https://www.acma.gov.au/Industry/Spectrum/Spectrum-projects/800-and-900-MHz-bands/review-of-the-803-960-mhz-band](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.acma.gov.au_Industry_Spectrum_Spectrum-2Dprojects_800-2Dand-2D900-2DMHz-2Dbands_review-2Dof-2Dthe-2D803-2D960-2Dmhz-2Dband&d=DwMFaQ&c=pqcuzKEN_84c78MOSc5_fw&r=z8R-nWJ8GIxwjOjNKhEFByb-tZ6XE3GZXWSggNdVo-w&m=VZomWoR0rSKqjKusHFhK4ijrzpCtGBugSmdTCSSaeWk&s=zVLO_GC-Aw3rZtcQUJSsEHg9EC0JBqUAeQV-RjRiSGk&e=)). So far, the focus is on the reconfiguration of licensing in the 900 MHz ‘GSM’ band (890–915/935–960 MHz). The consultation of re-farming these identified bands is ongoing. Their planned work on the facilitation of early access to the 928–935 MHz band for low-power wide-area IoT applications is still pending and would encourage to allow IoT for in 928-935 MHz as soon as possible.

1. Also in regard to question 4 IEEE 802.11, the basis of all Wi-Fi radio standards, is continually advancing to support more and improved wireless connectivity for consumers as well as industry. These will increase coverage and number of devices supported simultaneously, while reducing latency, critical in industrial applications. The 5.6 GHz band is central to the effective utilization of the 5 GHz band.
   * Channels 160 MHz wide are required to take full advantage of 802.11ax technology
   * Extremely High Throughput, currently under development as 802.11bc will utilize 160 MHz and 320 MHz wide channels

That said we would ask ACMA to review the space apparatus licensing and to align with the what is going on in the European Union and USA Federal Communications Commission for the 5.6 GHz band.

1. In addition, IEEE 802 believes ACMA should also consider the following:

* Due to the fact that popularity and essentiality of Wi-Fi technologies, both the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands are becoming increasingly congested. As a hedge against future spectrum gridlock, both the US and EU are working towards reorganizing and making available large portions of the bands between 5925 MHz and 7125 MHz for license-exempt use. IEEE 802.11 is in the process of extending the 11ax standard to support this. At the same time, we continue to support Ultra Wide Band (UWB) technologies in 6 GHz, based on IEEE 802.15 standards that operate there, and expect that any new regulations would ensure its continued use with existing regulations.
* In regard to the longer term view, IEEE 802 believes that creating and maintaining a dynamic database of all RF spectrum use will enable the maximum utilization of this finite resource. It can monitor and manage interference to licensed users and critical national defense spectrum, while opening a large amount of White Space spectrum for opportunistic use, such as for disaster recovery and bringing broadband to unserved or underserved segments of the population.

1. One final note, in response to Question 2, we note that the Cisco VNI quoted is an older revision, and would suggest updating with the 12th annual forecast (<https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/service-provider/visual-networking-index-vni/index.html>). Even Cisco understands that the rapidly changing RF spectrum horizon requires constant review.

**CONCLUSION**

1. IEEE 802 thanks the ACMA for the opportunity to comment on the Five-year spectrum outlook for 2019-23.

Respectfully submitted

By: /\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/

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**References:**

1. Wi-Fi Alliance® is a non-profit organization that promotes Wi-Fi® technology and certifies Wi-Fi® products if they conform to certain standards of interoperability. Wi-Fi Alliance®, Wi-Fi® and WiGig® are registered trademarks and Wi-Fi CERTIFIED WiGig™ is a trademark of the Wi-Fi Alliance.

1. This document solely represents the views of the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee and does not necessarily represent a position of either the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association or IEEE Technical Activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)