

NSW State Emergency Service

Please find hereunder a brief submission in relation to the review of the Radio Communications Acts and Role of the Australian Communications Authority.

In relation to Box 2.1

The NSW SES believes that the scope of the objectives is too narrow in that there is no specific mention of Public Safety Organisations (Permanent and Volunteer). Whilst mention is made of "*overall public benefit*" and "*use by public and community services*" and it is probably intended that these words are to include agencies like the SES, the fact remains that the intent could be more adequately expressed if the emergency services were specifically mentioned. This would highlight the importance of these agencies and ensure that their needs were always considered, particularly with the ever increasing commercial focus within the spectrum management environment.

In relation to 2.6

As stated above there is no specific mention of emergency services or what a community service is in the objectives. The SES feels that a definition for an emergency service could be as simple as those agencies defined within each state's or territory's emergency legislation. As far as community services are concerned the SES has no specific view, but they could be defined as agencies or organisations that are primarily volunteer and provide a free service to the good of the community.

There should be clearly defined exemptions from all fees for the volunteer emergency services (SES, RFS, RVCP, RVCP and VRA). Additionally when areas of spectrum are cleared to make better use of the frequencies or gain a commercial advantage, due consideration and in some cases proper compensation needs to be factored in to the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

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