

Commissioners David Robertson and Neil Byron
Australian Productivity Commission
Review of Radio Communications Act

Dear Sirs,

Speaking as a liveboard cruising sailor and amateur radio "HAM", I use HF radio e-mail to communicate with family and friends as well as to receive valuable weather data. Also, as I'm sure you know, HAM's are actively involved in emergency communications of many types.

At a meeting of cruising HAMs yesterday in Melbourne, Florida, I learned of an issue facing your Commission as it effects our ability to communicate via WinLink 2000.

I would like to express my support for Mr. Anthony Van Vugt submission to your commission regarding this issue. Specifically I support the interconnection between amateur radio and the Internet.

Just as we could not imagine before Sept. 11 any emergency where a commercial airliner would be used as a bomb and flown into a skyscraper, there are many emergencies we can not yet imagine. New York City, The American Red Cross, and the many volunteers at "ground zero" learned the value of HAM's communicating when the land based telephone system was not usable.

Having all practical means of communication open is the hallmark of all free societies.

Thanks for listening & 73's,

Thomas A. Rader
USA