

For Commissioners David Robertson and Neil Byron:

We are members of the International Seven Seas Cruising Association (SSCA) of recreational cruisers. Most of us live on and cruise our boats locally and on the high seas. We have a vital interest in digital ship-to-shore amateur radio communications to Prevent and, if necessary, to Report emergencies.

At a recent SSCA Gam, held in Florida, USA, we were informed about your Review of the Radio Communications Act. We would very much like to contribute. However, in the limited time left it is not possible to prepare individual submissions. However, Mr.. Anthony Van Vugt, and Australian member of our Association, has already placed a detailed submission before you. We support that submission.

Allow us, please, to reiterate the interests of international, including Australian, recreational cruisers. The most reliable means for sending and receiving amateur radio communications is via WinLink 2000 - a digital communications network operated by radio amateur, 24 hours per day WinLink 2000 is our lifeline and safety net. It is not available yet in Australia.

Also, Australian travelers are supported worldwide, by WinLink 2000 PMBOs. There are Australian radio amateurs and recreational cruisers who like to reciprocate. Having a PMBO on friendly Australian shores would add to the security and comfort of cruisers in Australian waters and on the high seas.

We understand that all what is needed is to change the ACA Determination to allow interconnection between amateur radio and the internet. Your Review provides a unique opportunity to liberalize amateur radio operations in Australia. It would allow them to participate in our international cooperative effort and support advances in Information and Communications Technology.

We ask you to recommend that the ACA Determination be suitably amended.

Sincerely Yours,
Michael C. Dallas
USA