

## THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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## WIA Policy on Consultation with Members and the Radio Amateur Community

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### Preamble

The WIA Board notes an expressed desire among some members and others in the Amateur Radio community that there is a formal process and means for the WIA to encourage comment and consultation on issues and matters affecting the Institute, or the hobby generally.

Since the National WIA website was instituted in 2006, a 'Contact the WIA' page has made available as a web form, at <https://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/emailwia/>. Here, anyone can enter a message and select one of three recipients to receive an email – WIA National Office, WIA President or WIA Webmaster.

Despite the fact that the online form is used daily by members and non-members alike, the advent of specific online 'Have Your Say' facilities by government agencies at national, state and local levels, unions, professional societies and other non-government organisations, has given rise to a general expectation that such a specific facility be instituted by organisations generally.

### Objectives

That all WIA members, and the amateur radio community generally, have the opportunity to provide views and comments to the WIA on identified matters or issues of interest or importance via the means of a specific online channel, with secondary channels via traditional means of email, fax and post.

That the WIA employs the service for specific purposes, rather than being "always open". That is, when consultation is to be sought on an issue, an article or options paper is published online and/or in *Amateur Radio* magazine and a 'Have Your Say' facility is appended on the website, "open" only for the period of consultation determined for the specific issue. Consultation can be sought on multiple issues at the one time, but each issue must have a separate Have Your Say response channel.

That the WIA can demonstrate to the ACMA, the Department of Communications and any other organisation, that it has consulted members and the amateur radio community on specific matters or issues of interest or importance, to determine their collective views.

### Desired outcomes

That WIA members and the amateur radio community generally support the WIA's efforts to encourage and incorporate consultative input on identified matters or issues of interest or importance.

That the ACMA recognises the WIA's policy and efforts to seek the widest consultation on matters and issues across the amateur radio community.

Likewise, that the Department of Communications and other organisations with a stake in radiocommunications issues recognise the WIA's consultation policy and procedures.

## **Scope**

For WIA members: matters or issues of interest or importance to members alone.

For the Amateur Radio community: matters or issues of interest or importance to all radio amateurs, prospective radio amateurs, others with an interest in Amateur Radio, or a stake in radiocommunications in Australia.

## **Stakeholders**

Including, but not limited to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) WIA members.                             | d) Other people with an interest in Amateur Radio in Australia.  |
| b) Radio amateurs licensed in Australia.    | e) Members of the radiocommunications industry in Australia.     |
| c) Prospective radio amateurs in Australia. | f) Australian residents with an interest in radiocommunications. |

## **Means and processes to satisfy outcomes**

To enable participation by the widest range of people and to accommodate personal preferences, facilities available to accept submissions from members and the amateur radio community should comprise:

- a) website facility enabling online form entry.
- b) email
- c) facsimile, and
- d) traditional postal means.

Establish a Taskforce or Working Group for each individual consultation exercise, to receive and record all submissions. The Taskforce to:

- 1) categorise and analyse submissions to determine the nature and extent of aggregated responses to the issue/s or matter/s for consideration
- 2) synthesise a comprehensive report and make recommendations to the Board.

## **Implementation and maintenance to satisfy objectives**

To be implemented and maintained by the IT Services Committee working in conjunction with the Communications & Marketing Committee.