



Wireless Institute of Australia

## **INFORMATION PAPER**

# **VOICE REPEATER GUIDELINES**

Repeaters are established primarily to extend the communication range of mobile stations in the VHF and UHF bands, and to assist amateurs in remote locations where simplex communication is not normally possible. They can also be used as calling channels for initial contact before switching to a simplex frequency. The following are suggested guidelines to maximise the efficient and courteous use of repeaters.

Here are suggested guidelines for making the most efficient and courteous use of voice repeaters.

### **TRANSMISSION TIME:**

Keep contacts brief and to the point. Each transmission should not exceed two minutes. If you have nothing to say, don't say it!

Repeaters have timers to limit transmission length. Do not reset the repeater's timer to extend your own transmission time. Before replying, let the repeater "drop out" and wait at least three seconds before transmitting. This allows others immediate access.

### **BREAKING IN:**

If you are using a repeater and another station announces its callsign during the pause, let that station go ahead immediately. He or she may have an urgent message.

To gain access to a repeater which is being used by others, announce your callsign during the pause between overs. If you have an urgent message, it is better to say so when you announce your callsign.

### **CALLING CQ:**

In some parts of Australia it is not usual practice to call CQ on a repeater. The most common practice is just to announce your callsign. It is courteous to follow local repeater practice.

### **USE OF CALLSIGNS:**

Avoid over-use of callsigns. They are required at the start and end of a contact, and at least once every ten minutes. But they can be dropped from the start and end of transmission during a contact. Avoid using phonetics unless they are absolutely necessary.

### **REVERSE OPERATION:**

Use reverse facilities to observe the other station's signal strength, and if satisfactory, move to a simplex channel. This keeps the repeater clear for those who may need it.

Please avoid simplex operation on repeater inputs, even if the channel is not in use in the immediate area. You may key up a repeater without realising it. It is also better to avoid using a repeater output frequency for a simplex contact: other stations may be able to hear a repeater on the frequency even if you can't.

### **POOR CONDITIONS:**

If your signal into the repeater is reported to be marginal copy or breaking up, do not persist in using the repeater until you are able to improve your signal.

### **DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE:**

Ignore annoying transmissions. Do not respond to a transmission not identified by callsign, or even comment on it. If you do, it will only encourage the person causing the interference.

### **CROSSBAND CONTACTS:**

The use of repeaters for liaison to establish contact on another band is reasonable, but cross-band contacts using a repeater are not encouraged. Where cross-band contacts are made, all frequencies should be announced by all parties. Priority should be given to normal repeater usage.

### **COURTESY:**

Be courteous and unselfish at all times, and always be aware of the needs of other people who have an equal right to share the repeater.

If you hear someone new to repeater operation, assist and educate them in a courteous manner. Remember that others, including new or potential radio amateurs, monitor repeaters. The image of Amateur Radio is important.