



THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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REPORT ON REPEATERS AND BEACONS

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National Repeater Coordinator

The position of a National Coordinator became necessary after the ACMA transferred all frequency allocations to Canberra replacing the previous system of this work being mostly done by its state offices.

The WIA and ACMA identified the need for a single contact person to coordinate matters in relation to amateur service repeaters and beacons. Eight applications have been processed so far under the centralised system.

A number of outstanding licence transfers were also necessary as a result of the closing of State WIA Divisions.

The National Technical Advisory structure needs to be defined by the Board. The Committee or similar group has an important role in managing and updating the Australian Band Plans. It is also a valuable local or specialist knowledge resource when fielding enquiries from radio amateurs.

I intend to continue to seek advice from existing State TACs in relation to the allocation of Repeaters and Beacon frequencies.

The efficient allocation of Repeater and Beacon frequencies relies on good Band Plans.

The regular publication of access methods and tones for Linked repeaters needs to continue, especially after the introduction of the Foundation Licence to reduce the possibility of them either inadvertently or through a lack of awareness, transmitting the cross-band access tones putting their transmissions on bands not permitted by their licence type.

Incidents of this occurring have resulted in comments from ACMA Field Officers which is putting the onus unfairly back on the Repeater Licensees. The issue needs to be addressed through the publication of access methods and tones for cross-band access. Awareness needs to be raised that it is the primary responsibility of individual radio amateurs to operate within their Licence Condition Determinations and some cross-band repeaters are not useable by all licensees.

A number of Groups have indicated interest in the alternative frequency split for the 70cm Repeater inputs of 5.4 MHz as a counter measure against LIPD interference. Two applications, one each in NSW and Victoria, are presently being processed.

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