

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)
Red Building, Benjamin Offices, Chan Street
BELCONNEN ACT 2617



28 Sept 2023

Re: ACMA Consultation Paper—*Implementation of proposed changes to apparatus licence pricing*

Dear Sir/Madam

AMTA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the apparatus licence pricing structures, as outlined in the ACMA's August 2023 consultation *Implementation of proposed changes to apparatus licence pricing*. Our submission comments on two of the three elements of the consultation; namely the proposed adjustments to apparatus licence tax rates and the interference protection pricing. We do not provide comment on changes to the television outside broadcasting network (TOBN) licence tax rate.

Proposed adjustments to apparatus licence tax rates

AMTA's 27 May 2023 submission to the ACMA's March 2023 consultation on the *Proposed Changes to Apparatus Licence Pricing Structures*¹ provided our support for the ACMA's proposed changes to base annual increases in apparatus licence tax rates based on population rather than on Consumer Price Index (CPI). The ACMA now plans to proceed with implementing these changes, and AMTA continues to support the ACMA's proposed approach.

Interference protection pricing and expansion of low- and micro-powered discounts

AMTA's 27 May 2023 submission to the ACMA's March 2023 consultation also raised our concern regarding the ACMA's proposal to introduce [reduced] "pricing for varying levels of interference", namely, reduced pricing for more opportunistic uses of spectrum that may present a reduced interference potential, and/or require less stringent levels of protection.

We are pleased the ACMA has decided not to pursue its proposals for reduced apparatus licence tax rates for varying levels of interference at this time, in line with stakeholders' feedback. However, the ACMA consultation paper notes it still "*sees merit in exploring a pricing regime that offers discounts*", and that the ACMA "*will seek opportunities to pursue interference protection pricing where we consider it appropriate*"².

The ACMA goes on to note, "*We intend to pursue these matters, where appropriate, as part of individual planning, licensing or pricing reviews where the ACMA and stakeholders can consider the matters in detail.*" AMTA and its members welcome the opportunity to participate in stakeholder consideration of matters that intend to link licence tax to varying levels of interference and/or protection and consider it appropriate for the ACMA to publicly consult on such matters.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Coughlan
Head of Spectrum and Network Infrastructure
Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association Ltd ([AMTA](https://www.amta.org.au))

¹ ACMA Consultation on *Proposed Changes to Apparatus Licence Pricing Structures*, March 2023. <https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2023-03/proposed-changes-apparatus-licence-pricing-structures>

² August 2023 Consultation Paper, p.5.