August 6, 2017

To: The Manager, Spectrum Planning Section

Spectrum Planning and Engineering Branch

Communications Infrastructure Division

PO Box 78, Belconnen, ACT 2616

Australia

**Via On Line:** <http://www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/~/link.aspx?_id=7043A83620984131BA404E340B15241A&_z=z>

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Subject: Comments to ACMA on Future use of the 3.6 GHz band Options paper, Appendix 3: 5.6 GHz band considerations.

**COMMENTS OF IEEE 802**

1. IEEE 802[[1]](#footnote-1) respectfully submits these responses[[2]](#footnote-2) to the Australia Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
2. IEEE 802, as a leading consensus-based industry standards body, produces standards for wireless networking devices, including wireless local area networks (“WLANs”), wireless specialty networks (“WSNs”), wireless metropolitan area networks (“Wireless MANs”), and wireless regional area networks (“WRANS”). We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to the ISED.

**RESPONSE**

1. IEEE 802.11 has been the primary developer of the RLAN standards known as Wi-Fi. Following the results of WRC 2003, when licence-exempt use of the 5 GHz band was authorized, 802.11 developed a series of standards for operation in these bands. Starting with 802.11a and on up through 802.11ac, with improvements in throughput and spectrum efficiency, billions of Wi-Fi users worldwide depend upon these standards for most of their wireless access to the Internet.
2. Currently, the 802.11 Working Group is developing a standard for High Efficiency Wireless networking that will become 802.11ax. Both 802.11ac and 802.11ax, in supporting the latest wireless applications, utilize 80 MHz and 160 MHz wide channels, for which they depend upon the available spectrum in the 5 GHz bands.
3. Most of that spectrum requires the use of a technology known as Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS), which is able to sense radars that need to be protected, and move to a channel where no radars are detected. This technology has been under development and in use for over a decade. In all that time, in numerous parts of the world, DFS has been proven to be successful in protecting these radars, including the weather radars in the 5600 MHz to 5650 MHz band. At no time have devices operating with DFS been seen to cause interference. Even the (formerly) harshest critic of DFS, EUMETNET, a grouping of 31 European National Meteorological Services, has publicly acknowledged that DFS does work.
4. Recent spectrum needs studies conducted by Wi-Fi Alliance and one of its major member companies has shown, that even in the U.S,, where the 5.6 GHz band is simply a part of the U-NII-2c band, that within the next five years, the amount of spectrum available will be unable to support the wireless networking needs of consumers and commercial users, and that congestion will begin to limit its usability. It is with this in mind that IEEE 802 would like to provide our comments with respect to Appendix 3 of this consultation.
5. Now, with the 3GPP LTE unlicensed technologies being added to these bands, the need for additional licence-exempt spectrum is greater than ever.
6. On Questions 8: Is the 5.6 GHz band a viable option for wireless broadband systems and 9: Under what circumstances should apparatus- and class-licensed arrangements be considered for the 5.6 GHz band, we believe that class-licencing is the proper approach to use of this segment, as it is currently operated in the U.S. and throughout Europe, as pointed out in the *Options Paper*.
7. We do, however, strongly oppose the relocation of the 3.6 GHz point-to-point operations to the 5 GHz band, as this would be counter-productive to expansion of spectrum for essential 802.11 wireless networking.
8. We would also suggest that ACMA consider joining with regulators in the U.S. and Europe and studying the licence-exempt use of the 6 GHz band, A pending FCC Notice Of Inquiry asks if the bands 5925 MHz to 6425 MHz, and 6425 MHz to 7125 MHz should allow “unlicensed” use, and CEPT in Europe currently has proposed Work Items to study 5925 MHz to 6425 MHz for licence exempt sharing. As mentioned previously, spectrum needs studies show serious spectrum shortfalls for Wi-Fi, which these regulatory actions look to prevent.

**CONCLUSION**

1. IEEE 802 supports ACMA’s efforts to open the middle of the 5 GHz band for licence-exempt use, and asks that this not be tempered by the addition of 3.6 GHz point-to-point links relocations. We also ask that ACMA consider joining with the U.S. and European regulatory efforts to support the future for RLANs by studying expansion to the 6 GHz bands.

Respectfully submitted

By: /ss/.

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**References:**

1. The IEEE Local and Metropolitan Area Networks Standards Committee (“IEEE 802” or the “LMSC”). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This document solely represents the views of IEEE 802and does not necessarily represent a position of either the IEEE or the IEEE Standards Association [↑](#footnote-ref-2)