

### **Portfolio or Agency mission/charter**

The ACMA is responsible for the regulation of broadcasting, the internet, radiocommunications and telecommunications. The ACMA's responsibilities include:

- promoting self-regulation and competition in the communications industry, while protecting consumers and other users
- fostering an environment in which electronic media respect community standards and respond to audience and user needs
- managing access to the radiofrequency spectrum

### **Vision**

By 2010, the ACMA wants to be, and be recognised as:

- the world's leading converged communications regulator; and
- a forward-looking and efficient organisation that supports and encourages a dynamic communications sector.

### **Strategic intent**

Making communications and media work in Australia's public interest.

### **Goals**

- To manage an effective regulatory environment that:
  - supports an efficient communications sector; and
  - enables industry to meet the needs of the community for communications services and products.
- A professional and highly committed workforce.

### **Key objective/s with respect to space-related activity**

To provide support and a regulatory framework for satellite services to Australia and to meet the communications needs of Australia's space sector and the Australian public.

### **Current space-related activities/responsibilities**

ACMA is responsible for the following areas relating to space systems:

#### **Regulation**

- Regulating Australian satellite network communications (Australian satellite networks are those networks notified to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) by the ACMA), radiofrequency spectrum requirements of radio-astronomy sites, and Earth stations within Australian territory.

- Establishing licence arrangements for foreign satellite networks providing services to Australia.

#### Technical coordination

- Ensuring Australian satellite networks adhere to international agreements and provisions of the ITU, including Advance Publication, coordination and notification.
- Protecting Australian assignments in the Broadcasting-Satellite Service Plan and Fixed-Satellite Service Plan of the ITU.

#### Engineering

- Assessing the potential for interference between space and terrestrial services.
- Developing coordination criteria for satellite networks and Earth stations.
- Participating in international fora that study the technical characteristics and sharing constraints of space systems and networks.

#### Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

- Providing advice to satellite operators and radio astronomers about national and international regulatory and engineering requirements.
- Providing advice to Government about regulatory and engineering requirements for Australian and foreign space systems.
- Manage the consultative processes associated with coordinating Australian radiocommunications industry and Government input to regional fora and, in accordance with the ACMA's statutory obligations, to treaty level instruments of the ITU Constitution, Convention and Radio Regulations.

### **Recent major achievements**

In 2008 - 2010 ACMA:

- Established a radio quiet zone under Embargo 41 to support Australia's bid for Square Kilometre Array – a giant radio telescope.
- Developed the Five-year Spectrum Outlook 2010-2014 document that provides transparency about the ACMA's views and knowledge of spectrum demand and a preliminary indication of the ACMA's proposed approaches to addressing demand pressures.
- Provided advice to Australian government agencies and Australian space community including advice on activities of the European Space Agency and regulatory matters for Australian satellite operators and the radiofrequency community.
- Participated at national, regional, and international meetings to prepare for the 2012 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12)
- Amended the *Radiocommunications (Foreign Space Objects) Determination 2008*.
- Assessed many hundreds of proposals from other countries relating to new or modified satellite networks.
- Submitted satellite networks to the ITU on behalf of KaComm Communications Pty Ltd, the Department of Defence, and Optus which aim to provide new services to Australia.

- Commenced a review of its practices and processes relating to the filing and coordination of satellite networks. The ACMA intends to undertake public consultation regarding this review in 2010.

The ACMA provides ongoing support for a number of Australian satellite systems that are established or planned for operation in the geostationary orbit, including:

- Department of Defence
  - DEF-R-SAT series
  - AUSSAT C Gov series (Defence component of Optus C1)
  - ADF series
  - ADF West
  - DDSF series
  - ADF UHF-2
- AsiaSpace Limited
  - AsiaBSS
  - AUSSB
  - AsiaBSS-B
- Optus Networks Pty Limited
  - AUSSAT A series
  - AUSSAT B series
  - AUSSATC series
  - AUSSAT D series
- Intelsat Corporation
  - PAS-ENDEAVOUR-81W
- KaComm Communications Pty Limited
  - ROEBUCK series
- - KACOMM series

Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) List Filings- AUSBSS 152E  
- AUSBSS 164E

The ACMA also provides support to the Australian Sirion network operating in the non-geostationary orbit.

### **Portfolio/Agency expenditure on space-related activity**

There is no specific budget for ACMA space-related activities. The budget allocation is at a team level and includes funds for the performance of other functions for which the team is responsible.

### **Legislation administered by portfolio/agency**

The ACMA performs its roles, responsibilities and obligations under legislation, including legislation administered by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the Attorney General's Department:

- *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005*
- *Radiocommunications Act 1992* and associated subordinate instruments.
- *Telecommunications Act 1997* and associated subordinate instruments.
- *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and associated subordinate instruments.
- *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999*
- *Datacasting Charge (Imposition) Act 1998*
- *Datacasting Transmitter Licence Fees Act 2006*
- *Do Not Call Register Act 2006*
- *Interactive Gambling Act 2001*
- *NRS Levy Imposition Act 1998*
- *Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act 1983*
- *Radio Communications Taxes Collection Act 1983*
- *Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act 1983*
- *Spam Act 2003*
- *Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997*
- *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*
- *Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act 1997*
- *Telecommunications (Universal Service Levy) Act 1997*

#### **International space-related agreements:**

Australia is a signatory to the ITU Constitution and Convention. The ACMA fulfils part of Australia's obligations to this treaty level agreement.

The ACMA has a role in implementing arrangements associated with the:

- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the European Space Agency for a Co-Operative Space Vehicle Tracking Program.*
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America concerning Space Vehicle Tracking and Communication Facilities*

The ACMA also provides advice on other international agreements which include/deal with radiocommunications issues.

#### **Portfolio/Agency involvement in other space-related agreement/arrangements:**

In order to ensure that it has the ability to meet its international obligations, the ACMA enters into Deeds of Agreement (legally binding arrangements) with each Australian satellite operator. Deeds of Agreement are intended to provide regulatory certainty for both the ACMA and satellite operators. The ACMA currently has Deeds of Agreement representing many of the satellite networks that it has filed with the ITU on behalf of satellite operators.

#### **Contact**

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Further information on ACMA space-related matters is available from  
[www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)

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