

The Spectrum Reform Initiative

An update of the [Spectrum Reform](#) initiative

The time line

- May 2014 - the Minister for Communications, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP (the Minister), announced a review of Australia's spectrum policy and management framework.
 - An Issues Paper (May 14)
 - Potential Reform Directions paper (Nov 2014)
 - Consultations with various stakeholder groups
 - Workshop (Jan 2105)

- March 2015 – a Report of the review was completed which recommended:
 - A new Act
 - Better integration of broadcasting and also public sector spectrum holdings into the overall spectrum management process
 - A review spectrum pricing arrangements

- August 2015 – Government announced it would implement the recommendations

- May 2017
 - [Draft Bill](#) for a new Act
 - [Consultation papers and Factsheets](#)
 - Pricing
 - Commonwealth held spectrum

- Feb 2018
 - DoCA releases final recommendations re Pricing & Commonwealth held spectrum

The Draft Bill

[Information paper: Radiocommunications Bill 2017: a platform for the future](#)

Features of the bill:

- Less “hard-wired” legislation – more to be done by Regulation and administrative rule-making
- A unified licensing system (in lieu of Apparatus, Spectrum and Class licences)
 - [RadComms 2017 licensing workshop](#)
 - [Supporting material for the Exposure Draft of the Radiocommunications Bill 2017](#)
- Licence conditions
 - Core conditions
 - Frequency
 - Location
 - Registration requirements
 - Payment of charges
 - Other conditions, e.g.
 - Tenure and renewal rights
 - Tradability
 - Third party use
 - Variations
 - etc.
- A review and rationalisation of licence fees! (Good luck with that one!)
- Opportunity for greater involvement by “third parties” in the spectrum management process, e.g.
 - Accredited frequency assigners (continuing)
 - Other possibilities (as yet undefined)
- Many other changes, including:
 - Less hands-on role for the Minister
 - “Spectrum Authorisations” to replace Class Licences
 - Better “enforcement” powers e.g. a graded range of penalties (warnings through to criminal convictions) better suited to the offence in question
 - Better integration of broadcast planning
- Transition arrangements
 - Yet to be developed
 - Will extend over a period of time
 - Different arrangement likely for different licence types