



Communications Policy Objectives for the Allocation of the 26 GHz band

Supporting the deployment of 5G technologies

The Government's [*5G – Enabling the future economy*](#) directions paper identified that the Government would support the early deployment of 5G in Australia by making spectrum available in a timely manner. The 3.6 GHz band was the first band made available in Australia for the deployment of 5G services, with spectrum licences allocated in December 2018. Following international developments, the 26 GHz band has been identified as the next band in Australia for the deployment of 5G services. Spectrum in the 26 GHz band is expected to be complementary to holdings in the low and mid band ranges; while these lower bands can be used to provide for broader coverage, the 26 GHz band (as a mmWave band) enables the extremely fast, high-capacity services that will characterise 5G.

Promoting competitive market outcomes for the long term benefit of consumers

The Government wants to promote competitive outcomes for the long term benefit of consumers, in order to encourage a range of choice in consumer products and place downward pressure on consumer prices. The Government recognises that spectrum allocations contribute to competitive outcomes for the long term benefit of consumers and that allocation limits can be an effective tool to encourage competition in downstream markets.

Promoting the efficient allocation and use of spectrum

The object of the Radiocommunications Act 1992 provide that the overall public benefit derived from the use of spectrum should be maximised by ensuring the most efficient allocation and use of the spectrum. Allowing the market to determine the price of spectrum through an auction process promotes allocative efficiency. Recent developments in material and manufacturing technologies mean that mmWave spectrum can be used for the deployment of wireless broadband services. Given the increasing demand for these services, moving to allocate this band as soon as possible and enabling use at the earliest opportunity contributes to the efficient use of spectrum in Australia.

Promoting co-existence with existing services

Existing services within the 26 GHz band and in adjacent bands need to be considered when allocating new licences in the band. Studies have indicated that coexistence between new wireless broadband services and existing services in the band is feasible. Arrangements, including through licencing arrangement, licence conditions and associated administrative guidelines, should be made to ensure the appropriate protection of these services over time while allowing new users to access the band.



Supporting technological innovation and a range of wireless broadband use cases

The allocation of licences in the 26 GHz band will see the introduction of a mix of licence types across the band – class, apparatus and spectrum licences. Providing for these different licence types means that the spectrum is available for a range of wireless broadband use cases, supporting emerging technologies and innovative uses of the band.

Encouraging investment in infrastructure, including in regional Australia

The Government supports continued investment in mobile and fixed broadband networks. It also recognises that the different characteristics of spectrum bands, types of licencing arrangements and allocation processes can contribute to, or detract from this outcome. The proposed licencing arrangements in the band are designed so that smaller wireless broadband providers can access this spectrum and provide services outside the large metropolitan and regional centres.

