

## Next steps for spectrum reform

Implementation of the Spectrum Review recommendations will be staged over a number of years. Introducing the new spectrum framework will involve ongoing, close consultation to maintain certainty and support stakeholders during the transition.

### Key implementation milestones

The timeline below is indicative and will be kept under review as implementation progresses.

#### Primary legislation development and introduction

- October 2015 – consult on draft legislative proposals
- December 2015 – consult on Exposure Draft of new legislation
- Autumn sittings 2016 – introduce Bill

#### Ministerial policy statement on implementation of new framework

- Early 2016 – consult on draft policy statement
- Mid-2016 – policy statement issued following passage of legislation

#### ACMA annual work program on implementation of new framework and ongoing allocation/reallocation processes

- Early 2016 – consult on draft annual work program.
- Mid to late 2016 – first annual work program released following issue of Ministerial policy statement.

#### Single licensing system development and rollout

- Ministerial policy statement
  - Early 2016 – consult on draft policy statement.
  - Mid to late 2016 – policy statement issued following passage of legislation.
- Subordinate regulation
  - December 2015 – release sample licences with Exposure Draft of legislation.
  - Mid to late 2016 – consult on draft licensing instruments, following passage of legislation and issue of policy statement.
  - From mid-2017 – commence progressive implementation of new licensing system.

#### Pricing review

- Mid-2015 – commence review of spectrum pricing.
- Mid-2016 – report back to Government on outcomes of review of spectrum pricing.
- Mid-2017 – commence new pricing arrangements along with commencement of new licensing system.

#### Commonwealth spectrum

- Mid-2015 – commence work on policy arrangements for Commonwealth spectrum use.
- Mid-2016 – report back to Government identifying policy and financial arrangements for Commonwealth spectrum use.

#### Allocation processes, technical regulation and compliance and enforcement

- Early 2017 – consult on new processes and instruments.
- Mid-2017 – commence progressive implementation of these elements of the framework.

## Transitional arrangements for licence holders

The guiding principle for the transition is that the rights of existing licence holders will not be diminished in the transition. The new licensing system is intended to be progressively rolled out from mid-2017.

In transitioning to the new system, existing licensees will be able to select the option which best suits their needs:

- retaining their current licensing arrangement until expiry, or
- where new arrangements become available earlier, transitioning to new licensing arrangements before the formal expiration of their current licences.

Those seeking new licences will be issued licences under the old arrangements until the new system is in place and a licence type suitable for their proposed use is available.

A summary of transitional arrangements for key elements for the framework is below.

### *Replanning and allocation activities*

- Allocation, reallocation or replanning processes continue under the old framework until the new Act commences.
- Once the new Act commences, new processes will operate under the new arrangements.

## Transitioning existing licence types to the single licensing system

### *Existing apparatus licences*

- Licensees provided with at least 12 months' notice to transition to new arrangements.
- Licences to continue under the current framework until expiry and a suitable replacement is available. If a replacement is not available at expiry, the licence may be renewed for a timeframe consistent with development of the new arrangements.
- Any new pricing arrangements would be applied at the time the replacement licence commences.

### *Existing spectrum licences*

- Licences to be grandfathered and continue until expiry unless users voluntarily decide to transition.
- Implementation of the reforms will examine options for licence holders to voluntarily transition to the new framework.

### *Existing class licences*

- Licensees provided with at least 12 months' notice to transition to new arrangements.
- Licences to continue until appropriate replacement licence or regulation is available. Existing licences to then be revoked by the ACMA.

### *Licences for television broadcasters*

- For broadcasters, the initial transition will be managed in a similar way to existing apparatus licensees.
- Pricing review to consider when any new pricing arrangements should commence.