



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT

Our Ref: Min21634/DoIR158085

23/9
Dr Simon Pelling
General Manager
Digital Broadcasting and Spectrum Management
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Pelling

**NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY AND AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING
AUTHORITY**

The Western Australian Government endorses the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts' proposal that the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) and the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) be combined into a single agency with responsibility for broadcasting, telecommunications, radiocommunications and online regulation.

This echoes our view expressed in August 2002 that the full amalgamation of the ACA and the ABA would enable Australia to more effectively address the issues associated with the convergence of telecommunications, information technology and the media.

We remain concerned that the special situation of regional broadcasters must be taken into consideration in making changes to spectrum allocation and pricing. Emphasis should also be placed on ensuring that licence holders transmit to the entire licensed area. Hopefully, the new agency will address those concerns. We also hope that expertise from both agencies will be represented in a Perth office.

Should you wish to seek further information on any of the issues regarding structural reform in spectrum management, please contact Sheryl Siekierka on (08) 9222 5677 or Dan Scherr on (08) 9222 5675 at the Department of Industry and Resources.

Yours sincerely


CLIVE BROWN MLA
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT

17 SEP 2003