



Australian Mobile  
Telecommunications  
Association

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Mobile telecommunications industry welcomes Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment**

### **AMTA CEO, Mr Chris Althaus, said:**

“Radiofrequency spectrum is the life blood of mobile telecommunications and therefore critical to enabling mobile connectivity – such as the applications and services supported via smartphones and mobile broadband which are a key feature of modern life – a reality so dramatically highlighted by the importance of staying connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“A contemporary legislative framework to efficiently plan, allocate and manage radiofrequency spectrum is central to realising the full potential of mobile connectivity in our economy and society.”

“Against this background the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) welcomes the Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Bill tabled in Parliament today.”

Reform of this important legislation was initiated by Government as a response to the 2015 Spectrum Review with the aim of introducing a more streamlined framework that would be more predictable, transparent and flexible to support spectrum usage across all sectors in line with increasing demand for spectrum - including for latest generation mobile telecommunication technologies and services such as 5G.

Industry is now working through the details of the Bill and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum (EM) and will continue to work with the Government to understand the legislation and its implementation.

AMTA specifically notes the following key amendments:

- Increasing the maximum licence term for spectrum licences to 20 years
- The introduction of renewal statements designed to give licensees greater certainty of the arrangements that will apply at the end of licence term
- A more streamlined process that removes the Minister from routine administrative tasks and approvals
- The introduction of Ministerial Policy Statements (MPSs) for the Minister to provide guidance to the ACMA on its policy objectives
- An improved and strengthened compliance and enforcement regime that should improve the ACMA’s ability to be timelier and more efficient in managing interference issues such as illegal mobile repeaters

As with any legislative change the implementation of the amendments will ultimately provide the test for the effectiveness of the reforms.

*-ends-*

**For further information or to arrange an interview with Chris Althaus, CEO of AMTA, please contact:**

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**About AMTA:**

The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) is the peak national body representing Australia's mobile telecommunications industry. It aims to promote an environmentally, socially and economically responsible, successful and sustainable mobile telecommunications industry in Australia. Please see [www.amta.org.au](http://www.amta.org.au)