

Via the Department of Home Affairs submission form

22 May 2026



Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) is the peak industry body of Australia's mobile telecommunications industry. Our purpose is to be the trusted voice of industry, promoting the adoption, monetisation and sustainability of mobile telecommunications technology for the benefit of all Australians. AMTA members include the mobile network service providers, handset manufacturers, network equipment suppliers, retail outlets and other suppliers to the industry.

AMTA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Drones Security Public Consultation Paper, April 2026. Should you have any questions on the submission please contact [REDACTED], on [REDACTED], on [REDACTED].

AMTA notes that drone technology is a developing area and becoming increasingly sophisticated. Some of the applications for drone technology used currently within the mobile industry are:

- Creating digital twins of network infrastructure such as mobile towers.
- Remote inspection of the condition of mobile tower and network infrastructure assets.
- Tethered drones have been demonstrated to provide mobile coverage in times of emergency.

AMTA also recognises that drones can be used for malicious purposes such as disrupting air traffic, breaches of privacy and as delivery mechanisms for terrorism and warfare. AMTA supports endeavours by Government to mitigate the risk to Australian citizens of the improper, or malicious use of drones.

AMTA notes that one of the tools for countering remote operated drones is the use of jammers to electromagnetic spectrum, and the use of these will generally result in the drone landing. We note that mobile technology has been used to control drones and so jamming the communications to these drones, results in disruption to the mobile signal for legitimate users in the immediate vicinity. One of these legitimate uses could be contacting emergency services, so the use of jammers should be constrained to the smallest area possible and for a duration no longer than needed to mitigate the risk.

In 2022, the ACMA formally commenced the [Innovation and Industry Development Exemption Framework \(the Framework\)](#). The Framework utilises the [Radiocommunications \(Exemption\) Determination 2021](#) to permit Banned Devices to be operated by Exempt Persons under reasonably tightly constrained conditions. The Framework is in addition to the existing mechanism under section 27 of the Radiocommunications Act that allows the ACMA to [grant exemptions](#) to a narrow range of professions that have functions or duties relating to defence, national security, law enforcement or emergency services.

While neither the Framework nor section 27 of the Radiocommunications Act carry a mandatory notification obligation, the ACMA's guideline for the [Use of banned equipment under the Radiocommunications Act 1992 by law enforcement and related persons](#) makes it clear that the Exemption granted for the use of banned equipment carries a requirement to notify the ACMA and/or stakeholders, including licensees of spectrum in which the banned device operates.

The ACMA's guideline requires the operator of the exempt device to keep records of the use of any exempt devices and to notify potentially affected parties (stakeholders) of use of exempt devices, noting that in some instances, notification will occur after the device has been used. Notification(s) of intended (future) or actual (past) use are important to AMTA member, Mobile Network Operators (MNO), as it helps them understand whether interference may occur, or has occurred to their networks.

AMTA MNO members detect interference to their networks as part of their normal operational processes. Interference incidents are routinely investigated to uncover the cause; however, this cost can be avoided where the cause of the interference is known to have occurred from the use of a device under exemption. Notification of the use of a banned device under exemption, in advance, or as soon as possible after its use is important for the efficient operation and use of MNO resources.

We consider compliance with the notification obligations in any exemptions granted under either the Framework or section 27 of the Radiocommunications Act to be very important for the efficient management of mobile networks.

If operation of drone jammers is to be extended beyond those currently allowed under section 27 of the Radiocommunications Act, then AMTA requests these entities be made aware of the requirement to provide notifications to affected parties, i.e., spectrum licensees, when drone jammers are used.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

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