

13 August 2014

Manager  
Spectrum Licensing Policy Section  
Australian Communications and Media Authority

By email: [Radiocommunications.Policy@acma.gov.au](mailto:Radiocommunications.Policy@acma.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Transitioning the 3.5 GHz band for future opportunities**

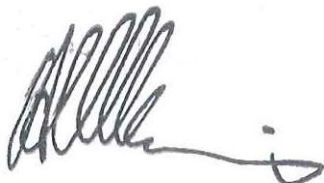
The Australian Subscription Television and Radio Association (ASTRA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Australian Communications and Media Authority Consultation Paper *Transitioning the 3.5 GHz band for future opportunities*.

The Australian subscription television (STV) sector makes significant use of fixed-satellite services operating in the adjacent 3.6-4.2 GHz band ('C-band'), including Foxtel, FOX SPORTS and Sky Racing. A wide range of programming delivered by Australian STV platforms is directly sourced from satellite feeds operating in the C-band, including from Disney, Discovery, BBC, Eurosport, Bloomberg, TCM, Cartoon Network, Boomerang, Sky News UK, Fox News, CNBC, Animal Planet, ESPN, Al Jazeera and CNN.

While ASTRA has no position on licensing arrangements in the 3.5 GHz band after the end of 2015, we submit that the conditions of any licences issued in that band must include adequate protection from interference for satellite services operating in the 3.6-4.2 GHz band. As Foxtel noted in its submission to this consultation, C-band satellite receive facilities are very sensitive to interference and any impact from services operating in the adjacent 3.5 GHz band would have significant consequences for ASTRA members and Australian STV subscribers.

Please feel free to contact Simon Curtis, Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager, on (02) 9772 2688 or [simon.curtis@astra.org.au](mailto:simon.curtis@astra.org.au) if you wish to discuss further anything in the above.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Maiden  
CEO