



CITIZENS RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TEAMS

Victoria Incorporated

(ABN: 79459026235)

(Reg. No. A0027739V)

State Headquarters: P.O.Box 349, Geelong, Vic., 3213.

(24 Hour) Telephone: 0409 949 372

Web Site: (Site temporarily unavailable)

Email: sec_crest_vic@hotmail.com.

27th May 2009.

**Attention: Mr Andrew Stewart,
Government Planning Section,
Australian Communications and Media Authority.**

**Subject: Response to the Spectrum Proposals – 403 – 520 MHz – suggested
proposals for future arrangements in the 400 MHz band.**

Crest Victoria Incorporated (Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams, Victoria Incorporated) would like to place before you our suggestions for possible changes to the CBRS and in particular the UHF CB allocation of channels. We appreciate your time is most valuable and will try to keep this short and to the point.

It has long been acknowledged that daily, more and more people are obtaining and setting about using the UHF CB as a cost effective and most reliable source of communications, as well as this the range of users is that of the general person as a hobby through to those who utilise this medium as a business communication basis. The problem with the number of users in this day and age is that the number of allocated frequencies for their use is small as opposed to the number of persons who try to use the frequencies being extremely large.

When one sits down and looks at the allocation of the current 40 channels for the UHF CB radio user, one finds the following:

**There is 1 Call channel,
There is 1 Road or General purposes channel,
There are 2 set aside Telemetry channels,
There are 8 Repeater channels and
There are 8 input channels to those Repeaters.**

As can be appreciated you then have a situation arising that there are only 20 channels for the remainder of UHF CB users to operate on legally.

We are firm in our beliefs that the discussions for a further 40 channels in the UHF CB range being instigated, is and can only be of great benefit to those who use this medium.

Our main concern is, however, as an Emergency Monitoring Group that the Emergency UHF CB Channels remain as they are, for the use of those in trouble or coming across the scenes of anything from car collisions, fires, floods to injured persons or animals, whereby a message passed through the emergency channel has services responding more quickly than it would where the caller would or may have to find a telephone, to notify those same services, if no UHF CB radio was available.

As it stands at this time, a large number of the commonly called 'truckies' and other users, whether deliberately or not, interfere with transmissions from those genuine people seeking emergency and not so urgent assistance, i.e. road directions etc., by using the input channel to the Emergency Channel (channel 35 simplex).

This has been a problem for the monitors within this the Crest Organisation for some time now, with our own taped notification assisting in clearing a percentage of these people but others persist in continuing to mis-use channel 35, either, as previously indicated, due to their ignorance or deliberate acts.

It would be our strongest recommendation that one of the changes to be look at in the near future and with the proposals currently in hand, is that input channels to each of the repeaters as well as any Emergency Repeater, be marked off limits to general users and that in fact they be blanked out by those manufacturing UHF CB radios and marketing them to the individual for purchase. It would further be our strongest suggestion that manufacturers be placed in a position that they must place in each packaging facility for new UHF CB radios, a channel list, with the Emergency Repeater and other Repeater channels, along with the Telemetry channels, Road channel and Call channel, clearly marked and easily explained regarding the fact that the input channels to these Repeaters are not available.

This Organisation goes as far as to suggest that the following be maintained in their current status:

The Call Channel,
The Road Channel,
The Telemetry Channels, and the Emergency Channels.

We also go as far as suggesting that the suggestion by us that the businesses such as trucking firms, delivery firms and couriers, etc, be allocated a number of channels, perhaps 8 or 10 channels in a 'bank', which they can operate on all day, every day thus keeping the Repeater channels free from mis-use, either by accident and ignorance or by deliberate intentions of blocking emergency calls coming through. With the allocation of this 'bank' of channels comes the added incentive, that through this Organisation, Crest, they will be advised of road closures, road incidents affecting their vehicles passage in an area, storm warnings etc on these channels as a matter of general course.

We as an organisation have no doubt that numerous suggestions and points for discussions have been forwarded to you for consideration, however, we believe that these above ideas can be incorporated into any number of other ideas making a change for the future and betterment of UHF CB users.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to peruse this document and trust that it may hold some suggestions of value and assistance. My contact number is 0409 949 372 should need to discuss any of these proposals we have outlined.

I remain hours in Crest,

Jeffrey .C. Smith, ESM,
CEO and Public Officer,
Crest Victoria Incorporated.