



In reply please quote

DIR 18 0284

Senator Jonathon Duniam
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Duniam

On 21 May 2018 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the Hearing, Senator Urquhart said in relation to the ACMA auction of radio frequency spectrum:

(Page 47, Hansard transcript)

"It has been reported that the government has proposed a sell-off of the 3.6 gigahertz radio frequency in relation to the mobile 5G networks. Can you clarify the nature of the negotiations between the bureau and the ACMA?"

In response I said

"...it's the 5.6 gigahertz part of the spectrum, I think."

I wish to clarify my answer to the Committee. The 3.6 gigahertz spectrum is being auctioned, and wireless internet service providers reallocated to the 5.6 gigahertz spectrum. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing stands.

Further, during the Hearing Senator Urquhart said in relation to the ACMA auction of radio frequency spectrum:

(Page 47, Hansard transcript)

"Can you tell me whether the bands are adjacent to each other? If there are separate frequency bands, are they actually adjacent to one another?"



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In response I said

“No, the bureau has 62 radars, and 32 of them are what we call C-Band, which operates in the 5.6 gighertz range. The others are what we call S-Band that operate around that 2.60 gigahertz range...”

I wish to clarify this answer. The bureau has 62 radars in total, of which 49 are C-Band radars. Of the 49 C-Band radars 32 are potentially affected by the changes proposed by ACMA. The Bureau's S-Band radars operate in the 2.80 gigahertz range. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing stands.

Finally, during the Hearing Senator Urquhart said in relation to the matter of an unqualified observer at Lord Howe Island:

(Page 52, Hansard transcript)

“I recall there was an observer mentioned in the media recently about, I think, Lord Howe Island?”

In response I said

“No, it's at Norfolk.”

I wish to correct this answer. The person being referred to was in fact at Lord Howe Island. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to the Committee. I apologise to you and the Committee if any inconvenience has been caused.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Johnson
CEO and Director of Meteorology
Bureau of Meteorology
26 June 2018