

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 97

Program No. Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Page 12, 28/5/2015

Topic: Spectrum licences

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked: The major use of spectrum licences as opposed to apparatus licences at this point in time is mobile phones; is that right?

Mr Tanner: That would be the major, but it is certainly not the only. We have spectrum licence space being used for a number of other purposes, including satellite, for example.

Senator DASTYARI: Does a figure on it exist?

Mr Tanner: Certainly I could give you any amount of detail on the different bands and what they are used for, but I would prefer to take that on notice.

Senator DASTYARI: If you could, that would be fantastic. The 900 megahertz that is used for GSM is still licensed on an apparatus licence basis—correct?

Answer:

The ACMA develops a technical framework for each spectrum licensed band which sets the terms by which a device may be deployed and operated under a licence. The framework is developed to be technology flexible, although the framework is optimised for a particular use (e.g. mobile broadband). This means licensees can operate any type of radiocommunications device for any purpose, provided they comply with the technical framework relevant to the licence. The technical framework is designed to manage interference to and from other spectrum users.

The table below provides information on the services deployed in each spectrum licence band that the ACMA is aware of. The ACMA does not have definitive information on the exact percentage breakdown of service types in each spectrum licence band. However, a general statement on the predominant use of each band can be made (note: 20/30 GHz Defence spectrum Licences have not been included).

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Band	Services ACMA is aware have been deployed
700 MHz	4G mobile broadband*
800 MHz	3G & 4G mobile broadband*
1800 MHz	4G mobile broadband* 2G voice and data systems (for train safety) Point-to-point links
2 GHz	3G mobile broadband* 4G mobile broadband (trials)
2.3 GHz	4G fixed and mobile broadband* Point-to-point links
2.5 GHz	4G mobile broadband*
2.5 GHz mid-band	TV outside broadcasting*
3.4 GHz	4G fixed and mobile broadband* Point-to-point links
27 GHz	Satellite gateway Earth stations*

* Predominant use of band