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THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

OPEN FORUM, BANKSTOWN, 6 May 2006

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**John Martin VK4KW Chair
Technical Advisory Committee**

The past year has been a fairly quiet one for the Technical Advisory Committee. Most of the WIA's attention has been on its internal restructure and on the introduction of the Foundation licence, so issues that normally involve the national or state TACs have tended not to arise!

The major TAC activity in the past year has been the updating of the data base material for the Call Book. This task can now be completed more smoothly and with none of the panic that occurred in past years, thanks to the appointment of the current Call Book editor and the establishment of a set of guidelines and deadlines.

Processing of VHF distance record claims, and the issue of certificates for these, has continued as usual. The record claim criteria have also been updated in the past year.

There has been little need in the past year to make any changes to the band plans. However they will need more attention in the coming year, considering the introduction of the new LCD and the Foundation licence, and the expanding use of digital modes.

The revised 70 cm band plan, adopted as a result of the loss of access to 420 – 430 MHz in some states, has gone very smoothly. Repeaters in this band continue to suffer LIPD interference, but the only possible solutions to this problem would involve major cost and inconvenience, so it is recommended that the existing band plan be observed until the situation becomes clearer.

There are several areas of unfinished business relating to licence privileges. One is the allocation of an LF band (or rather, two – at 137 kHz, and in the 165 – 190 kHz band used in the Pacific). Another is the future of the 6 metre band, with still no further progress in clearing channel 0, and the government's decision to further delay the phasing out of Band I television. And there is the perennial problem of the restrictive repeater linking and tone access requirements, which remain intact despite a number of revisions to the LCD over some years. It is understood however that ACMA may be unwilling to consider resolving these matters so soon after a major revision of the LCD.

As usual I wish to thank the members of the TAC liaison and technical panels, and the members of the WIA board, for their help and advice during the past year. I have attached a copy of the current TAC membership list.

John Martin

TAC MEMBERSHIP AND E-MAIL LIST - UPDATED OCTOBER 2005

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