

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

The Manager  
Wireless Satellite and Digital Dividend Section  
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy  
GPO Box 2154  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Re: Submission to the Digital Dividend Green Paper**

Dear Sir /Madam,

Please find following our response to The Digital Dividend Green Paper.

Our interest in this area is as a user of wireless audio devices including radio microphones, musical instrument wireless transmitters and in ear monitoring systems.

I am a freelance location sound recordist working in the Film and Television industry, and based in Melbourne.

I, and all others in the same field, rely on the use of radio microphone systems and monitoring devices in my daily work. Using both receivers and transmitters in the same portable setup means that we need to access to a wide range of the currently available frequencies to avoid intermodulation / interference problems with our equipment.

The Australian film industry is not huge, but continually produces product of which we can be justifiably proud on modest and ever dwindling budgets. Part of the reason for this is that we are able to make use of new technology that enables us to work quickly and with smaller crews. This new approach to film making makes the sound recordist more reliant on the use of radio microphones than ever before, limiting our access to the available frequencies would render this style of film making impossible.

In television production, we regularly use radio frequency links to send sound to the camera, replacing the old "umbilical" cable setup which tethered the sound recordist to the camera. This was a system that was inherently dangerous to both operators loaded down with equipment and to any of the general public who were in the vicinity. If we were to lose access to our currently allocated frequencies, a typical press conference would see crews scrambling for the limited frequencies or a mess of cables going everywhere, a potential OH and S disaster.

While we acknowledge the desire of Government to maximise the asset and value that is inherent within the wireless spectrum we need ensure that our interests are accommodated in any future re-stack of the wireless spectrum.

In particular, as an existing user of wireless audio technology we are seeking the following outcomes from the Digital Dividend Process:

- That wireless spectrum remains available to users such as ourselves and that the available spectrum is sufficient to accommodate current and future use
- That the uncertainty surrounding the future use of these products be resolved as soon as possible.
- That there is sufficient time between the determination of future spectrum access within the 520Mhz and the proposed 694Mhz band for organizations such as our to make the necessary changes
- That our right to use these products under the Low Interference Portable Devices (LIPD) licence arrangements is acknowledged and that similar arrangements continue into the future
- That the Government recognise that there are costs associated with the change of spectrum, including the decommissioning existing equipment and its replacement with new equipment appropriate for use within the new and as yet to be determined, frequencies]

We understand that the Australian Wireless Audio Group (AWAG) are preparing a response to the Green Paper. As a user of the products supplied by the AWAG members we feel that AWAG are better placed to provide the kinds of detailed analysis and responses to the technical, economic and social implications being sought by the Green Paper and, in particular, with reference to questions 3.33, 3.34, 3.35, 3.36, 3.37, and 4.6.

We would therefore like to add our support to the AWAG response.

Should you wish to contact me regarding this matter you can do so on \_\_\_\_\_ or by email

Yours faithfully,,



A Aucote  
Location Sound Recordist, Film and Television  
Freelance