RADIO SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

Spectrum policy
The radio spectrum is an important resource managed by the Crown, through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), on behalf of the people of New Zealand. The efficient use of this resource to provide services such as telecommunications and broadcasting is essential to the functioning of a modern economy.

Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) is a business unit within the MBIE that is responsible for providing advice to Government on the allocation of radio frequencies to meet the demands of emerging technologies and services. Spectrum is allocated in a manner that ensures radio spectrum provides the greatest economic and social benefit to New Zealand society.

National legislation
The primary mechanisms for managing radio transmissions are the Radiocommunications Act 1989 and the Radiocommunications Regulations 2001.

The Radiocommunications Act establishes the licencing regime which manages interference issues between uses of radio spectrum. Two licencing regimes are used, spectrum licences under a management rights regime, and radio licences under an administrative regime.

RSM is responsible for administering national legislation to manage radio spectrum in New Zealand. The Act and Regulations set out the minimum requirements for the licencing regime, and other guidance and information is provided by RSM through other means such as Public Information Brochures (PIBS), Codes of Practice and Reference Standards.

International obligations
New Zealand is a signatory to the ITU Telecommunications Convention, which gives international treaty status to the associated International Radio Regulations. As such, it is important that national spectrum management is consistent with and promotes compliance with our international treaty obligations.

The Radiocommunications Act requires all licensees to comply with the International Radio Regulations which transfers these international obligations into New Zealand's national law.

RSM is responsible for ensuring New Zealand meets its international obligations under International Telecommunications Union (ITU) treaties and participates in international multi-lateral and bi-lateral discussions relating to radio spectrum.

As part of meeting New Zealand's obligations under the ITU treaties, the Ministry publishes a table of frequency usage in New Zealand.