

Response to DRAFT FIVE YEAR SPECTRUM OUTLOOK 2022–2026

Sennheiser Australia / New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Five Year Spectrum Outlook.

Sennheiser Australia Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sennheiser electronic GmbH & Co. KG, a family-owned German company founded in 1945 by Professor Fritz Sennheiser to manufacture electronic measuring instruments and audio equipment for professional applications. It has grown to be a global company with subsidiaries and distributors across the world and is universally recognised as a leader in high quality audio solutions for professional and commercial applications.

1. Have we identified the range of technological advancements and probable new demands relevant to New Zealand?

The DRAFT FIVE YEAR SPECTRUM OUTLOOK 2022–2026 makes minimal reference for the requirements of wireless microphone users. We take this opportunity to draw attention to the fact that there are major industries and sectors of the economy relying on devices which use the 500 and 600MHz band as a primary part of their spectrum. These industries include the media, arts and entertainment industries, education, houses of worship, real estate agents, wedding celebrants and many other groups who use Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) systems to capture, link and monitor audio from a performer, speaker, preacher, lecturer, reporter to then be recorded, broadcast, streamed and/or amplified for live performance. As a manufacturer, it is critical for New Zealand to stay in lockstep with global frequency allocation to benefit from emerging technology innovations.

2. Have we prioritised the right issues that we will need to actively manage through our work programme (to the extent this is possible to predict now)?

We note the reference to spectrum sharing. To the best of our knowledge, there are no tools or database available which would allow a user in a specific location to determine useable frequencies. A tool like the ACMA Wireless Frequency Finder would be of tremendous benefit.

<https://channelfinder.acma.gov.au/>

Additionally, GUSL's for radio microphones expire in March 2025. What, if any, provision is in place for the renewal of GUSL for radio mics in both the 500MHz and 600MHz bands?

3. Are there other matters that we should cover?

Consider opening the 1785–1805MHz block for wireless microphone use. There is product available in this band that would help ease the pressure on 500MHz and 600MHz usage. Noting that this is requested to support, not replace, 500 / 600MHz bands.