

2 June 2023

Government has made a set of announcements on its decisions regarding the 3 300 – 3800 MHz frequency band and its use for mobile and broadband (e.g. 5G), details of this can be found on our website <https://www.rsm.govt.nz/projects-and-auctions/current-projects/preparing-for-5g-in-new-zealand/>. In line with these announcements we have registered Management Rights across the 3 300 -3 800 MHz frequency band to support the new use. These Management Rights will all commence on 1 July 2023 and any existing radio licences in the band will be automatically revoked on 30 June 2023. This will include the 3300 – 3410 MHz Frequency Band currently covered by the [General User Radio Licence for Amateur Radio Operators](#) and one licence held by the Wellington VHF group for a beacon under licence ID 179457.

We highlighted the amateur use and potential impacts in our [2021 consultation](#) where we received a submission from you and have had ongoing discussions. You will be aware that Amateur use in the 3300 – 3410 MHz band has been on the basis that this frequency range may be allocated for use by other services and amateur operators must accept interference from primary users and must not cause interference.

I am pleased to inform you that we intend to allow continued Amateur use in the 3 300 – 3 410 MHz for the time being. To permit this from 1 July 2023, General User Spectrum Licences (GUSLs) have been created in the RRF under Licence ID 404591 and Licence ID 404593 [435381 from 1 July 2026]. These GUSLs will replace the provisions in the current GURL for the 3 300 – 3 410 MHz band. In providing this licence for continued Amateur use I would like to highlight the following points:

1. We continue to be of the view that co-existence between amateur radio services and broadband / mobile use on the same or adjacent frequencies within an area is challenging (likely unfeasible). Interference could impact both the broadband and mobile networks and amateur radios. However, we acknowledge that roll out of broadband / mobile use may be progressive and happen over time, still leaving opportunities for interference free amateur use.
2. Ongoing amateur use in 3 300 -3 410 MHz will be secondary to the other use in the band and will be on an opportunistic basis. The new GUSL strengthens the conditions on not causing interference compared with the GURL.
3. We strongly encourage amateur operators users to listen before they transmit or to check the Register of Radio Frequencies before commencing transmission. We trust that amateurs will take care to prevent interference to the primary users of 3 300 -3410 MHz band noting that the occurrence of interference can have a direct impact the broadband / mobile services being delivered (e.g. outage for customer broadband connections).
4. If we are receiving reports of interference issues occurring to the primary users 3 300 -3410 MHz band we may cancel the GUSL and no longer allow amateur use, particularly if this becomes burdensome on RSM. The new GUSL highlights that the chief executive reserves the right to cancel this licence at any time.

We will no longer allow individual amateur beacons, repeaters and fixed links to be licenced in the 3 300 and 3 410 MHz band and these are not covered by the GUSL. In the long term, interference management between this type of use and mobile / broadband could be problematic. However, noting that there is an existing beacon licence under Licence ID 179457 for amateur use, we are happy to invite the existing licence holder - the Wellington VHF group to apply for a spectrum licence from 1 July 2023 on a transmit but with no receive protection basis if they would like to continue to operate at that location [no application was received, this time has now passed and applications will not be accepted].

Best regards,



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