Attachment E: PSMBSC Terms of Reference

Public Safety Mobile Broadband Steering Committee

Terms of Reference

Role

The Commonwealth Attorney-General and Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy established this Committee to:

1. Provide a report to Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers and to the Standing Council for Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM) on the most effective and efficient way for Australia's public safety agencies to obtain a reliable and robust mobile broadband capability that meets their operational requirements and the potential for allocation of radio-frequency in this regard, and
2. Work with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of its review of the 805 MHz to 890 MHz frequency range (the 800 MHz band), to identify a suitable amount of spectrum necessary to meet foreseeable operational needs.

Function

In preparing its report, the Committee will undertake the following:

- The identification of the operational and technical requirements of public safety agencies for a new mobile broadband capability to support their operations
- A consultative process between Australian public safety agencies and the ACMA, the outcomes of which will feed into the ACMA's current review of spectrum in the 800 MHz band, to identify a suitable quantum of spectrum suitable for an effective and efficient nation-wide public safety mobile broadband communications capability
- The development of a national implementation plan agreed to by all jurisdictions (the Plan) to utilise a possible allocation of spectrum from the 800 MHz band for the deployment of an interoperable national mobile broadband capability for public safety agencies. The Plan will:
    - Demonstrate how an allocation of spectrum from the 800 MHz band to public safety agencies would be used effectively and efficiently to deploy a national mobile broadband capability within a reasonable timeframe of the spectrum becoming available
    - Include a proposed business model that addresses issues associated with the design, building, maintenance, and operation of a network necessary to deliver this capability
    - Include agreement among all jurisdictions on funding arrangements for the nation-wide capability, including all costs associated with design, building, maintenance and operation, and

    - Include recommendations for appropriate funding charges that the public safety agencies will pay for the use of any allocated spectrum
- The consideration of alternate solutions to enable public safety agencies' requirements for mobile broadband, which could serve as a fallback option if, for any reason, the public safety agencies are not in a position to agree on an implementation plan or are unable to take up a possible allocation of spectrum, and
- A consultation process with industry stakeholders on this capability.

The Committee will also consider relevant progress of the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry into *The capacity of communication networks and emergency warning systems to deal with emergencies and natural disasters,* which is due to report on 2 November 2011.

Accountability

The Committee will report to relevant Ministers and to the SCPEM.

Leadership and Administration

The Committee will be co-chaired by:

- The Deputy Secretary, National Security and Criminal Justice Group, Attorney-General's Department (AGD), and
- The Deputy Secretary, Digital Economy and Services Group, Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE).

The work of the Committee will be conducted through a combination of face-to-face and out-of-session meetings (including videoconferences and/or teleconferences).

Membership

The Committee will comprise senior officials representing the following:

- AGD
- DBCDE
- ACMA
- The Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency
- The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
- The Council of Ambulance Authorities
- The Law Enforcement and Security Radio Spectrum Committee
- The National Coordinating Committee for Government Radiocommunications
- The National Counter-Terrorism Committee
- The National Emergency Management Committee
- The SCPEM Policing Senior Officers Group, and

- Council of Australian Governments Senior Officials Group

Additional Members, Advisers and/or Observers may attend meetings of the Committee, with the agreement of both co-chairs, as required.

Secretariat Support

AGD will provide secretariat services to the Committee with assistance from DBCDE as required.

Reporting

The Committee will report to relevant Ministers and to the SCPEM by 29 February 2012.

Review

The Committee's Terms of Reference may be reviewed and amended at the discretion of the co-chairs and agreement of the majority of Members, with advice on resulting changes to be provided to the Attorney-General and Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

Committee cessation

The Committee will cease to operate after its report has been delivered or as otherwise agreed.

Funding

Each member will be responsible for funding their support to the work of the Committee, including participation at meetings.