



## The Wireless Institute of Australia

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The Secretary  
WICEN (Vic.) Inc.  
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30 August, 2011

Thank you for the recent submission to the WIA in which WICEN Victoria suggests a more integrated approach to providing emergency communications training and manpower in Victoria.

The WIA Board has not formally met since the submission was received, so I cannot give you an official response at this time. However I can make some general comments.

The WIA wishes to enhance the 'public benefit' aspect of amateur radio in any way it can, and is therefore open to any suggestions about how this can be achieved. Enhancing the 'public benefit' aspect of amateur radio is vitally important in order to preserve the long-term spectrum allocation and privileges that we all enjoy. The ACMA use a 'public benefit' metric in determining spectrum allocation, and we expect this requirement to gain in importance over time.

As a national organisation, the WIA has previously looked to the various State and regionally based WICEN groups to provide most of this 'public benefit' function but clearly, with the exception of a few like yourselves, most are a diminishing force.

If the various WICEN groups were better organised, active, and had a good working relationship with emergency services, the WIA would be overjoyed, the 'public benefit' aspect would be well served and basically the WIA could leave it well alone. Unfortunately that is not the case.

The submission is really asking for a special case for WICEN Victoria, but a National representative organisation like the WIA needs to, as much as possible, find National solutions to issues affecting Amateur radio. With this in mind, the WIA has attempted to avoid one-off arrangements benefiting or affecting members in only one geographic area, so clearly this will be a point of discussion for the Board.

Our current activity is selecting and appointing a small network of Emcomms Regional Coordinators. Their role will be to act as a first point of contact in their region and to also collect information for the WIA about the manpower needs of regional emergency services and NGO's. We expect this task to be completed very shortly.

Once again, thank you for the submission and I expect to have more information for you after the WIA Board next meets.

Best regards

per. Phil Wait  
Director, WIA