

AMTA Member Networking Forum

Spectrum Policy

Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy

**Minister for Broadband
Communications and the Digital Economy**

Wednesday 3 March 2010, 4.00 – 6.00pm
Mallesons Stephen Jaques
Level 61, Governor Phillip Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney

Senator Conroy will announce the Government's policy approach on current spectrum licences.

Mobile operators are anxious to understand the process for treatment of current licences which begin to expire in 3 years time. Certainty in relation to existing licences is essential to broader investment and planning agendas including consideration of new spectrum in 700MHz (digital dividend) and 2.5GHz bands.

A spokesman for the Minister recently told the Australian Financial Review; "The government recognises the importance of these licences and that decisions on spectrum licence reissue will have implications for the structure of the communications market well past 2020.

"The department (DBCDE) has conducted a number of processes to ensure that the major policy decisions on this issue are made by government on a fully informed and considered basis, including: seeking advice on international experience and key issues relating to spectrum licence reissue from international experts; releasing in April 2009 a public discussion paper on possible public interest criteria for spectrum licence reissue decisions; commissioning in 2009 a study estimating the potential value that could be received by government on licence reissue; and holding initial consultations with key industry stakeholders.

"The minister said in April last year that he would provide details about the process regarding licence renewal within 12 months and we remain committed to that time frame."

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