

# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

## POLICY STATEMENT NO. 21

### COMMUNICATIONS

AUGUST 1987

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The Department has an extensive radio communications network (900 radios) providing communication throughout the State.

To achieve this, high frequency (HF) radios are used in the North West, South Coast and Goldfields Regions with very high frequency (VHF) radio systems covering the more populated South West Regions. Resources for radio purchase and installations are limited.

Priority for allocation of radios and maintenance work is given to the Fire Control programme, safety and then the daily management and administrative needs of the Department.

Close liaison is maintained with external organisations such as the Bush Fires Board and State Emergency Service to ensure radio contact during emergencies. The Department is a member of the DOCIT. Communications Strategy Committee which has the function of reviewing, coordinating and advising on existing and proposed Government radio communication facilities and needs.

All radio operators within the Department receive training in the radio systems and procedures. It is essential that radio networks are operated in the most effective manner and in accordance with Department of Communications Regulations.

#### 2. OBJECTIVE

To provide and coordinate radio communication links which will assist in achieving the goals of resource, land and wildlife management in an effective and cost-efficient manner.

#### 3. POLICIES

The Department will:

- 3.1 Maintain an effective cost-efficient radio communications network.
- 3.2 Acquire knowledge and skills so that decisions made about managing the communications network are based on the most recent technical information and expertise.
- 3.3 Review management techniques, technical information, staff, finance and equipment needs at regular intervals.
- 3.4 Liaise with other State and Federal Government departments responsible for radio communications to integrate the radio communications network with overall State and Federal requirements.

#### **4. STRATEGIES**

To implement the policies the Department will:

- 4.1 Maintain sufficient technical staff and funding to provide information, advice and necessary equipment.
- 4.2 Improve and refine management systems and controls in order to provide effective and adequate communication systems, facilities and techniques. A form of "user-pay" system of costing to be implemented to ensure adequate funding for the purchase, maintenance and development of communications systems.
- 4.3 Maintain training and recruiting programmes to ensure that necessary radio communications expertise is always available.
- 4.4 Prepare statements indicating the technical value of projects in a way which allows their financial priority to be allocated.
- 4.5 Maintain contact with other Government departments and organisations with interests in communication networks and facilities.

#### **5. CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RADIOS**

Priorities for the issue and maintenance of VHF and HF radios will be based on the following criteria:

- 5.1 The need to ensure the safety and well being of staff.
- 5.2 Fire control operations and Emergency Services.
- 5.3 Other regional operations.
- 5.4 Service branches.
- 5.5 Specialist branches.
- 5.6 Special cases.

#### **6. PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Safety considerations**

Staff, particularly those at sea or working alone in remote locations such as the Kimberley and Pilbara etc. need priority for radio communications to ensure their own personal safety and that of members of the public on or near CALM land or marine areas.

##### **6.2 Fire Control Operations and Emergency Services**

- 6.2.1 Key staff directly involved in fire management, e.g. Duty Officers, On-call Officers and Rangers-in-Charge.
- 6.2.2 Overseers/gang trucks.
- 6.2.3 Key heavy duty vehicles.

6.2.4 Key machinery used in fire control, e.g. bulldozers, low loaders etc.

6.2.5 Lookout towers and detection aircraft.

6.2.6 Beacon vehicles.

### 6.3 **General Operations**

6.3.1 All staff working alone in the outback regions, e.g. Wildlife Protection Officers.

6.3.2 Staff working alone regularly more than two days per week in the South West Regions.

6.3.3 Timber Industry Regulations staff.

6.3.4 Staff who need to communicate with other operations while on duty, e.g. logging operations.

### 6.4 **Service Organisations**

6.4.1 Fire Protection Branch staff.

6.4.2 Communications Branch staff.

6.4.3 Key engineering staff.

6.4.4 Key environmental staff.

### 6.5 **Specialist Branches**

6.5.1 Key research staff.

6.5.2 Inventory staff working alone.

6.5.3 Administration

### 6.6 **Special Cases**

6.6.1 Cadets

6.6.2 Couriers

6.6.3 Stores.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Distribution Lists: A, B, C, D, E, & F