

INABOX GROUP CORRECTS EARNINGS GUIDANCE

Inabox Group Limited has issued a correction to its earlier earnings guidance, which stated that the group expected overall net profit after tax would hit A\$850,000 for the period 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014. The company released a correction in a subsequent statement, saying the A\$850,000 figure in fact relates to anticipated net profit before tax for the period.

ON THIS DAY 10 YEARS AGO: FROM THE COMMSDAY 2004 ARCHIVES

Neighbourhood Cable was poised to trial wireless broadband technology aimed at connecting locations unserviceable by wireline in Victoria's Sunraysia district ... electronic document management systems supplier Advanced Data Integration was awarded a A\$775,000 federal research grant to build more intelligence into its software for the sorting of documents ... the federal government moved for the third time to amend telecommunications interception legislation to permit police to gain access to e-mail, voicemail and SMS messages.

Letter from Dr Andrew Kerans

Re C-band spectrum debate

In a follow up to the recent article about a 'clash' over C band issues, Reg Coutts argues that the ACMA should take a wider approach to determining the national interest and consider the needs of neighbouring countries.

While I agree with the sentiment, holding back the Australian economy by denying spectrum to mobile broadband would in my view be an unwise move. If Reg wishes to look more deeply into these issues perhaps we can here.

Remittances, that is returns from people working overseas, make up around 9% of the GDP of East Timor and about the same or slightly more in the Pacific. These are the seasonal workers Australian farmers rely upon. So what does this have to do with C band? Well there is ample proof that mobile broadband is an economic enabler, so the continued growth of mobile broadband will cause a continued increase in GDP and thus a greater ability and perhaps a greater reliance on guest workers, thus improving their lot and stabilising their nations. So following this line of thought, Pacific Island nations would benefit economically from the release of C band in Australian cities and perhaps everywhere else.

The argument being put by Reg has been heard before. In 2007 a somewhat befuddled Liberal Minister was convinced that C band must be preserved and directed the ACMA accordingly. That in my view was a very poor decision, one that will continue to harm the Australian economy into the future.

I hope the Minister we have now is somewhat more astute and does his homework. One fact the current Minister may wish to consider is that a quick look in the ACMA licence database will turn up very few satellite (VSAT) licences.

Is this because there aren't any or because the operators aren't licensing them? Either way, it is a valuable band that is not contributing as much as it could to the Australian economy.

The FCC is now exploring 'small cell' options for C band. This will only serve to increase the pressure on the band and once the US adopts this measure the band will become a mobile broadband capable piece of spectrum sooner or later. In Australia the spectrum planning guys can only be led by what industry has to say. The satellite lobby, as we have seen is vocal and not averse to the odd 'red herring' while the mobile industry appears to be very poorly represented in ACMA forums.

Once the vendors realise this and focus more intently on C band that position may change. In the interim the ACMA is doing a good job and it is the only body qualified and experienced enough to manage the spectrum, so I do not support Reg's views.

Dr Andrew Kerans
Spectrum Management Associates

NB A letter from Reg Coutts on this subject in which he clarifies some of these views appeared in yesterday's Communications Day