



Important Notice

Change of VKS-737 Callsigns

Please note that with effect from 2009 Licence Authority Renewal, the Committee has resolved ALL VKS-737 callsigns (except for emergency services, government departments etc) will change to **MOBILE xxxx** where xxxx is the selcall number of the subscriber.

State / Country and Explorer based callsigns (i.e. Sierra 5291 etc) will **NOT** be used after the **30th November 2008**.

The issuing of State / Country based callsigns ceased on the 22nd May 2008 – all new licence authorities issued since that date have been in the format Mobile xxxx.

Details of the VKS-737 Network's callsign allocation policy can be found in [POLICY 05 – Callsign Allocation Policy](#)

Subscribers with existing State / Country / Explorer based callsigns are invited to change to the new Mobile xxxx callsign before renewal time, by simply contacting Head Office and the change will be arranged at no charge.

Background

When the VKS-737 Network was formed in 1993 it was only available to members of 4WD clubs via the relevant State 4WD Associations and a method of identifying the origin of users was required – this method was to use the first letter of each state 4WD Association hence NSW became "Romeo" based on the "Recreational 4WD Association of NSW and ACT", South Australia became "Sierra" based on the "South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs" and so on.

Many subscribers in NSW have inquired to Head Office as why they are Romeo members as they were totally unaware that the RRWDCA NSW & ACT existed, many others have queried expecting that they should have been issued a November callsign for NSW.

Within each state the original callsigns were then club based in the following format, number 1 to 50 was for members of the Toyota Landcruiser Club, 51 to 100 for the Nissan Patrol Club, 101 to 150 for the Pajero Club etc. At no time in these early years was there any correlation between selcall numbers and callsigns. Significant problems have been created as the Network grew to its current size.

Since those days the Network has opened to the general public and less than 30% of our subscribers belong to a 4WD club, also the State 4WD Associations have adopted a common title, i.e. 4WD Australia replaced the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council, 4WD SA replaced the SAAFWDC, 4WD NSW replaced the RFWDC of NSW & ACT etc. making the original prefixes of little consequence.

Over a period time many subscribers have retired to other states whilst retaining their original state prefix after many years in their new location. In some regions around 18% of our subscribers hold prefixes not applicable to their state of residence.

Over the past four years the Network has been changing callsigns to match selcall numbers, a task which was completed at the 2008 Renewal. Each subscriber now has their own unique identifier, their Selcall number is now also their callsign, their Licence Authority Number under Section 114 for the Radiocommunications Act and also their financial accounting number for all our financial dealings with our Auditors and the Australian Taxation Office. Therefore the need for individual State / Country / Explorer based prefixes becomes largely irrelevant. The prefix "Mobile" assists in reminding subscribers that the Licence Authority issued allows only mobile use of the frequencies – NOT fixed or base station use.