# Background – Australian Preparatory Group for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (PG WRC-23)

The PG WRC-23 is the main stakeholder group for industry participation in Australia’s regional and international forums on radiocommunications.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for telecommunications. The ITU's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) meets every four years to agree changes to the treaty-level Radio Regulations (RR) which govern the use of radiofrequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Agenda of a WRC covers terrestrial, space/satellite and science services. During the four years leading to each WRC, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) holds meetings to prepare technical and regulatory studies into potential changes to the RR. Regional telecommunication organisations such as the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) also hold regular meetings to prepare regional positions on issues on the agenda for WRC. Such meetings include the APT Conference Preparatory Group for the WRC (APG).

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications leads Australia's multi-stakeholder participation in and Australian delegations to key radiocommunication policy forums held through these organisations including the WRC, Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), and the APG.

Domestically, Australia has a very engaged technical radiocommunications community to prepare for Australian participation at the aforementioned ITU and APT forums.

The Australian Radiocommunication Study Groups (ARSGs) - managed by the ACMA - provide an ongoing stakeholder process that supports the development of Australian Preliminary Views, the main advice to government on Australia’s positioning for WRCs. The ARSGs are integrally engaged with the ITU-R study groups which meet regularly, often at the ITU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The main focuses of these groups is studies on WRC agenda items.

Australia’s Agenda Item Coordination Groups (CG) and Preparatory Group (PG) – managed by the Department - provide advice directly to the ACMA and the Department to inform Australia’s positioning on WRC agenda items ahead of the regional meetings of the APG and CPMs. Additionally, a stakeholder group supports Australia’s preparation for the ITU’s Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and RA meetings which provide guidance to the ITU-R Study Groups and set ITU-R sector priorities and work programs.

**WRC-19**

The last WRC, WRC 2019 (WRC-19) took place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from 28 October to 22 November 2019. The Final Acts of WRC-19 contain numerous changes to the Radio Regulations that are expected to support continuing development and roll out of communication services such as 5G, intelligent transport systems, and Wi-Fi on planes and ships.