

Public Inquiry
into
The AMPS declarations

Issues Paper

December 2000

Summary

The Australian Communications Authority has announced that the advanced mobile phone system (AMPS) network will be fully closed by the 31st of December 2000.

Currently the Commission has two AMPS services declared under the Act:

- the AMPS originating and terminating access service; and
- the AMPS to GSM diversion service.

These declarations entitle access seekers to use these services. The closure of the AMPS network will make these declarations redundant. Therefore the Commission has reached a preliminary view that the AMPS declarations should be revoked.

In reaching this preliminary view the Commission sought the views of the Telecommunications Access Forum (TAF) — an industry body that reviews issues of access to essential telecommunications facilities. The TAF has advised the Commission that it does not object to the AMPS declarations being revoked and that the declarations would be redundant with the closure of the AMPS network on 31 December 2000.

The Commission is required under the Act to seek the views of interested parties before making a decision to revoke a declaration. The Commission does not anticipate any objections to the revocation of the AMPS declarations, as they will be redundant with the closure of the AMPS network. However, the Commission has prepared this short issues paper to assist interested parties to make submissions on whether the AMPS declarations should be revoked by the Commission. Interested parties should make any submissions by 31 December 2000.

Introduction

As a result of the pending complete closure of the AMPS (analogue) network, the Commission is reviewing the current AMPS declarations to assess whether variations or revocations are required. There are currently two declarations that relate directly to AMPS technology:

- the AMPS originating and terminating access service; and
- the AMPS to GSM diversion service.

In 1998 the government decided to close the analogue mobile phone network by the end of 2000. As part of the transition the government decided that the AMPS services would continue to operate in country locations for sometime after the service had been totally phased out from metropolitan areas. The AMPS declarations will be effectively redundant by the end of 2000, as the service will no longer operate anywhere in Australia.

Background to AMPS declarations

AMPS originating access means an access service for the carriage of telephone calls from a calling party connected to the access provider's AMPS network to a point-of-interconnection (POI) with the network of the access seeker to provide access to special service numbers such as 1800. Domestic AMPS terminating access is an access service for the carriage of telephone calls (i.e. voice or data over the voice band) from a POI on the access seeker's network to an analogue AMPS subscriber in Australia. The AMPS to GSM diversion service diverts calls made to a non-active AMPS mobile number to a GSM number nominated by the former AMPS subscriber. The Commission deemed both of these services as declared services when it became the telecommunications competition regulator on 30 June 1997.

A copy of the service descriptions is attached.

Closure of the Analogue Mobile Phone Network

The analogue mobile phone network closed in most metropolitan and regional areas on 31 December 1999. It closed completely on 30 June 2000 in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. It also closed in additional regional areas in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia on 30 June 2000. The analogue mobile network will close in the Northern Territory and all remaining areas of North Queensland, north Western Australia and South Australia later in 2000.

Public Inquiry Revocation process

Following a request by any person or on its own initiative, the Commission may hold a public inquiry into whether to declare a new service, revoke a declaration, or vary the definition of a service that is already declared. Although the Commission can declare a service on the recommendation of the Telecommunications Access Forum (TAF) without holding a public inquiry, any major variation or revocation of an existing declared service can only be made after the Commission has first held a public inquiry. Inquiries are held to help the Commission determine if it is satisfied that declaring, varying or revoking a particular service would promote the long-term interests of end users of carriage services, and services provided by means of carriage services.

Therefore the Commission must:

- hold a public inquiry in accordance with Part 25 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* on whether to make the proposed declaration variation or revocation of a declaration;
- prepare and publish a report setting out the Commission's findings as a result of that public inquiry; and
- be satisfied that varying, or revoking, the service declaration or declaring the service will promote the long-term interests of end users of carriage services or of services provided by means of carriage services.

The variation, revocation or declaration must be made within 180 days of the publication of the report.

Section 152AO of the Act obliges the Commission to follow specified procedural steps when varying or revoking a declaration. The Commission is required to:

- (i) publish a notice of the fact that the Commission is holding a public inquiry and describing the issues and the process (s. 498);
- (ii) allow a reasonable opportunity for submission (s. 500); and
- (iii) assess any submissions and prepare a report setting out its findings as a result of the inquiry (s. 505).

Why the Commission has reached a preliminary view to revoke the AMPS declarations

The complete closure of the AMPS network by 31 December 2000 means that the AMPS services currently declared by the Commission will no longer exist. As such the declarations will be effectively redundant after 31 December 2000. Access to a service that does not exist is meaningless and therefore declaration is no longer needed.

The above position has been acknowledged and agreed to by the Telecommunications Access Forum.

Accordingly, the Commission has reached a preliminary view that the AMPS declarations should be revoked.

Submissions by interested parties

As is required by the Act the Commission invites interested parties to make submissions on whether the AMPS declarations should be revoked.

Submissions should be lodged with the Commission by no later than 31 December 2000.

If you have any queries about this public inquiry please contact Mr Chris Pattas on:

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0410 610 327 (mobile)

Appendix

Domestic AMPS Originating Access Service

The following service description is provided for Domestic AMPS originating access and applies to the provision of Domestic AMPS Originating access service by Telstra as AP to any AS (AS).

The Service as described comprises a number of different elements as follows:

- a) Access via a AS number ranges required to achieve the objective of any-to-any connectivity unless the AP has not sought or is not seeking terminating access to the end - customers in question
- b) Call Barring
- c) POI Location
- d) Signalling
- e) CLI provision
- f) Provision of Switchports
- g) Network Conditioning
- h) Fault Handling
- i) Inter C/CSP Billing

Restrictions on availability and others factors relating to the provision of Access are further described below.

In accordance with the Trade Practices Act Part XIC, these elements:

- may not be available from all APs; and
- may have restrictions in their availability.

Domestic AMPS Originating Access is an Access Service for the carriage of telephone calls (ie. voice, data over the voice band) to a POI from A-parties assigned numbers from the AMPS number ranges of the Australian Numbering Plan and directly connected to the AP's AMPS network.

5.1. Availability

The availability of the services may vary depending on the geographic and technical capability of the AP's network at the time at which a request for the service is made or the service is delivered.

The AP will make available to ASs documents describing the availability of this service on its network. See 5.3 & 5.4

5.2. Channel Capacity

The service will establish a connection for the purposes of voice communication with the standard bandwidth of 3.1kHz.

5.3. Services

5.3.1 The service is provided on a call that is made with an AS specific code including Special Services number ranges and codes (with some exceptions) as per table AOASD7, in accordance with the Australian Numbering Plan.

5.3.2(blank)

5.3.3 Service Restrictions

At least annually, the AP will advise of end-customer services that may restrict the provision of this service in a Table AOASD5.

5.3.4 Barring

The AP may provide a service that will allow barring of service codes at the request of the end-customer.

A-parties may request generic barring services which may restrict access to these services.

The AP should detail this barring in a table AOASD6.

5.4. Interconnection Handover arrangements

The AP and the AS are each responsible for the provision, installation, testing, making operational and monitoring of all the network on their respective sides of the POI.

5.4.1. POIs

"Point of Interconnection" or **"POI"** means an agreed location which:

(a) is a physical point of demarcation between the networks nominated by the AS and the AP; and

(b) is associated (but not necessarily co-located with) with one or more gateway exchanges of each of the networks nominated by the AS and the AccessProvider. Calls originated by the A-party will be handed over to the AS at Points of Interconnection agreed by the AS and the AP in respect of the POIs nominated by the AP in accordance with 5.4.1.1 and 5.4.1.2.

5.4.1.1 POI locations

The AP will provide a table (Table AOASD1) listing of POIs where this service may be provided. This listing will be updated at least annually. The AS may request a point of

interconnect with the AP's network at a location other than one specified by the AP. The AP must, to the extent technically and operationally feasible, permit the location of a point of interconnect at that location.

5.4.1.2 Number ranges

The AP will provide a table (AOASD2) of the number ranges to which this service gives access.

The POIs in Table AOASD1 will be the "near end hand-over" POIs.

5.4.2. Signalling

5.4.2.1. Signals for this service will use CCS#7 signalling. Unless otherwise agreed, this CCS#7 signalling will be in accordance with the NIIF/CIF Interconnection-ISUP specification.

5.4.2.2 The AP will provide a table (Table AOASD4) of the locations where the AS may interconnect its CCS#7 signalling network with that of the AP for the purpose of accepting this service.

5.4.2.3 Signalling interconnection may not be provided at all POI's. These POIs of 5.4.1.1 may provide for interconnection of voice circuits only. Control of voice circuits where direct signalling interconnection is not provided, will be via "quasi-associated signalling" using Signalling Transfer Point (STP) operation, with signalling via a nominated other gateway where signalling interconnection is provided.

5.4.3. CLI

The CLI of the A-party will be provided as part of the CCS#7 signalling for this service.

5.4.4. Nature of switchports

At POIs the calls will be delivered to the AS at 2.048Mbit/sec Switchports. The switchports will operate at 2.048Mbit/sec in accordance with the ITU Recommendations G.703, G. 704 and G.732 (Blue Book).

5.4.5. Send and receive speech levels

The send and receive levels for speech will be -13 dBr unless specified otherwise in the Australian Network Performance Plan.

5.4.7. The AP will not provide Echo Control unless this is a requirement within the AP's own network for calls between the end customer and the AP's gateway exchange.

5.5. Interconnection Forecasting, ordering and provisioning arrangements

5.5.1 Forecasting and planning requirements

5.5.1.1. Forecast of port requirements

For each POI the AS should provide forecasts, at least half yearly, of switchport requirements for 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months from the time of the forecast. Forecasts should be provided on dates to be agreed between the AP and the AS and forecast the switchport requirements from operative dates of 31 December and 30 June. Forecasts will be discussed by the AP and the AS with a view to agreement within 30 Business Days. Forecasts will be used for network planning and not for charging purposes.

5.5.1.2. Forecast of network capacity requirements

For each POI and for each charging district of the AP the AS should provide forecasts, at least half yearly, of traffic requirements for 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months from the time of the forecast. These forecasts should provide daily and weekly profiles for the traffic forecasted and advice of any material non-uniformities in the dispersion of the sources of originating access traffic. Forecasts should be provided on dates to be agreed between the AP and the AS and forecast the traffic requirements from operative dates of 31 December and 30 June. Forecasts will be discussed by the AP and the AS with a view to agreement within 30 Business Days.

5.5.1.3. Ordering of Switchports.

The AP will accept orders for switchports up to the level of the agreed forecasts for each POI. The AS should order switchports allowing 6 months for their provision.

5.5.1.4. The AP will provide access up to the level of the agreed traffic forecasts for each POI.

5.5.1.5 The AS may request and the AP will give reasonable consideration to, and use reasonable endeavours to provide, such provision, but is under no obligation to provide access or switchports above the level of the agreed forecasts. If such access is provided, delivery times may be longer than those specified in 5.5.1.3.

5.6. Interconnection Ordering Requirements

5.6.1. Compliance testing

The AS will be required to demonstrate compliance with the agreed CCS#7 signalling system prior to the provision of the service.

5.6.1.1 The AP and the AS will develop an agreed test plan and the AS will provide results of tests to this plan from an appropriate test house or other such party. The AP

will provide the results of such tests if it is not otherwise seeking a switch access service from the AS.

5.6.1.2 The AP and the AS shall review the test results of 5.6.1.1. within 20 business days and if the AP accepts that the test results of 5.6.1.1 are satisfactory then the AP and the AS will agree a date for commissioning tests.

5.6.1.3. The test results of 5.6.1.1 will form the prime documentary basis for ongoing operations, fault analysis and fault management of signalling between the AP and the AS.

5.6.2. Network Conditioning

Network Conditioning of the AP's network will be required before the provision of the service.

5.7. Operational and Fault handling arrangements

The AP will provide a contact point for the Operation and Maintenance of the service. Faults may be reported to this centre which will manage the clearance of these faults.

5.8 Inter AP/AS Billing frequency

The AP will invoice the AS on a monthly basis for this service.

5.9. Provision of, Tones and Network Announcements

Where calls attempting this service do not progress to the POI the call may be connected to tones as per AUSTEL Technical Standard TS002 or to a network RVA in the AP's network.

5.10 Customer Billing

Customer billing should be in accordance with an approved telecommunications access code.

Domestic AMPS Terminating Access Service

The following service description is provided for Domestic AMPS terminating access and applies to the provision of Domestic AMPS terminating access service by Telstra as AP to any AS.

The Service as described comprises a number of different elements as follows:

- a) Access for calls forwarded for termination in the AP's AMPS network
- b) POI Location
- c) Signalling
- e) CLI provision
- f) Provision of Switchports
- g) Network Conditioning
- h) Fault Handling
- i) Inter C/CSP Billing

Restrictions on availability and others factors relating to the provision of Access are further described below.

In accordance with the Trade Practices Act Part XIC, these elements:

- may not be available from all APs
- may have restrictions in their availability

Domestic AMPS Terminating Access Service is an Access Service for the carriage of telephone calls (ie. voice, data over the voice band) from a POI to B-parties assigned numbers from the AMPS number ranges of the Australian Numbering Plan and directly connected to the AP's network.

6.1. Availability

The availability of the services may vary depending on the geographic and technical capability of the AP's network at the time at which a request for the service is made or the service is delivered.

The AP will make available to ASs documents describing the availability of this service on its network. See 6.3 & 6.4

6.2. Channel Capacity

The service will establish a connection for the purposes of voice communication with the standard bandwidth of 3.1kHz.

6.3. Services

6.3.1 The service is provided on a call that is handed over for termination to a customer directly connected to the AP's AMPS network..

6.3.2 (Blank).

6.3.3 Service Restrictions

At least annually, the AP will advise of end-customer services that may restrict the provision of this service eg. Services barred from accepting Reverse Charge Calls in a Table ATASD5.

6.4. Interconnection Handover arrangements

The AP and the AS are each responsible for the provision, installation, testing, making operational and monitoring of all the network on their respective sides of the POI.

6.4.1. POIs

"Point of Interconnection" or **"POI"** means an agreed location which:

(a) is a physical point of demarcation between the networks nominated by the AS and the AP; and

(b) is associated (but not necessarily co-located with) with one or more gateway exchanges of each of the networks nominated by the AS and the AccessProvider. Calls originated by the A-party will be handed over to the AP at Points of Interconnection designated by the AP in respect of the POIs nominated by the AP in accordance with

6.4.1.1 and 6.4.1.2.

6.4.1.1 POI locations

The AP will provide a table (Table ATASD1) listing of POIs where this service may be provided. This listing will be updated at least annually. The AS may request a point of interconnect with the AP's network at a location other than one specified by the AP. The AP must, to the extent technically and operationally feasible, permit the location of a point of interconnect at that location.

6.4.1.2 Number ranges

The AP will provide a table (Table ATASD2) of the AMPS number ranges accessible with this service.

6.4.2 Signalling

6.4.2.1. Signals for this service will use CCS#7 signalling. Unless otherwise agreed, this CCS#7 signalling will be in accordance with the NIIF/ACIF Interconnection-ISUP specification.

6.4.2.2 The AP will provide a table (Table ATASD4) of the locations where the AS may interconnect its CCS#7 signalling network with that of the AP for the purpose of accepting this service.

6.4.2.3 Signalling interconnection may not be provided at all POI's. These POIs of 6.4.2.4 6.4.1.1 may provide for interconnection of voice circuits only. Control of voice circuits where direct signalling interconnection is not provided, will be via "quasi-associated signalling" using Signalling Transfer Point (STP) operation, with signalling via a nominated other gateway where signalling interconnection is provided.

6.4.3. CLI

Unless otherwise agreed the CLI of the A-party should be provided as part of the CCS#7 signalling for this service.

6.4.4. Nature of switchports

At POIs the calls will be delivered to the AP at 2.048Mbit/sec Switchports. The switchports will operate at 2.048Mbit/sec in accordance with the ITU Recommendations G.703, G. 704 and G.732 (Blue Book).

6.4.5. Send and receive speech levels

The send and receive levels for speech will be -13 dBr unless specified otherwise in the Australian Network Performance Plan.

6.4.7. The AP will provide Echo Control as normal for AMPS calls between the end customer and the AP's gateway exchange.

6.5. Interconnection Forecasting, ordering and provisioning arrangements

6.5.1 Forecasting requirements

6.5.1.1. Forecast of port requirements

For each POI the AS should provide forecasts, at least half yearly, of switchport requirements for 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months from the time of the forecast. Forecasts

should be provided on dates to be agreed between the AP and the AS and forecast the switchport requirements from operative dates of 31 December and 30 June. Forecasts will be discussed by the AP and the AS with a view to agreement within 30 Business Days. The forecasts will be used for network planning and not for charging purposes.

6.5.1.2. Forecast of network capacity requirements

For each POI and for each charging district of the AP the AS should provide forecasts, at least half yearly, of traffic requirements for 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months from the time of the forecast. These forecasts should provide daily and weekly profiles for the traffic forecasted and advice of any material non-uniformities in the dispersion of terminating access traffic. Forecasts should be provided on dates to be agreed between the AP and the AS and forecast the traffic requirements from operative dates of 31 December and 30 June. Forecasts will be discussed by the AP and the AS with a view to agreement within 30 Business Days.

6.5.1.3. Ordering of Switchports.

The AP will accept orders for switchports up to the level of the agreed forecasts for each POI. The AS should order switchports allowing 6 months for their provision.

6.5.1.4. The AP will provide access up to the level of the agreed traffic forecasts for each POI.

6.5.1.5 The AS may request and the AP will give reasonable consideration to, and use reasonable endeavours to provide, such provision, but is under no obligation to provide access or switchports above the level of the agreed forecasts. If such access is provided, delivery times may be longer than those specified in 6.5.1.3.

6.6. Interconnection Ordering Requirements

6.6.1 Compliance testing

The AS will be required to demonstrate compliance with the agreed CCS#7 signalling system prior to the provision of the service.

6.6.1.1 The AP and the AS will develop an agreed test plan and the AS may provide results of tests to this plan from an appropriate test house or other such party. The AP will provide the results of such tests if it is not otherwise seeking a switch access service from the AS.

6.6.1.2 The AP and the AS shall review the test results of 6.6.1.1. within 20 business days and if the AP accepts that the test results of 6.6.1.1 are satisfactory then the AP and the AS will agree a date for commissioning tests.

6.6.1.3. The test results of 6.6.1.1 will form the prime documentary basis for ongoing operations, fault analysis and fault management of signalling between the AP and the AS.

6.6.2. Network Conditioning

Network Conditioning of the AP's network will be required before the provision of the service.

6.7. Operational and Fault handling arrangements

The AP will provide a contact point for the Operation and Maintenance of the service. Faults may be reported to this centre which will manage the clearance of these faults.

6.8 Inter C/CSP Billing frequency

The AP will invoice the AS on a monthly basis for this service.

6.9. Provision of Tones and Network Announcements

Where calls attempting this service do not progress to the end customer the call may be connected to tones as per AUSTEL Technical Standard TS002 or to a network RVA in the AP's network.

6.10 Customer Billing

Customer billing should be in accordance with an approved telecommunications access code.

AMPS to GSM Diversion Service

The following service description is provided for AMPS to GSM Diversion and applies to the provision of the service by any AP to any AS.

The Service as described comprises a number of different elements as follows:

- a) Forwarding calls from the AP's AMPS network to the AS's GSM network.
- b) POI location
- c) Signalling
- d) CLI provision
- e) Provision of Switchports
- f) Network Conditioning
- g) Fault Handling
- h) Inter C/CSP Billing
- i) Restrictions on availability and other factors relating to the provision of access are further described below.

In Accordance with the Trade Practices Act Part XIC, these elements:

- may not be available from all APs
- may have restrictions in their availability

“AMPS to GSM Diversion” means a service whereby all calls made to the disused AMPS mobile number of a former AMPS subscriber are diverted to a specified GSM POI of an AS.

10.1 Availability

The availability of the service may vary depending on the geographic and the technical capability of the AP's network at the time at which a request for the service is made or the service is delivered.

The AP will make available to ASs documents describing the availability of this service on its network.

10.2 Channel Capacity

The service will establish a connection for the purposes of voice communication with the standard bandwidth of 3.1 kHz.

10.3 Services

The service is provided on a call to a former customer of the AP's AMPS network, for which the former customer has indicated should be diverted to the AS's GSM network.

The service will be provided for a length of time consistent with the Numbering Plan.

10.4 Handover Arrangements

Handover arrangements will be consistent with arrangements agreed between the AP and the AS for any other calls made from the AP's network to the AS's network.

10.5 Forecasting Requirements

The AS should provide forecasts of AMPS to GSM Diversion requirements, at least half yearly, for 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months from the time of the forecast. Forecasts should be provided on 31 March and 30 September for the half year ending 31 December and 30 June. Forecasts will be discussed by the AP and the AS with a view to agreement within 30 Business Days.

The forecast will contain the total number of AMPS to GSM Diversion services required at the end of each six month period.

The AP will provide the service up to the level of the agreed forecast.

10.6 Ordering

AMPS to GSM Diversion services will be ordered on an individual basis using the agreed order form.

10.7 Operational and Fault handling

The AP will provide a contact point for the Operation and Maintenance of the service. Faults may be reported to this centre which will manage the clearance of these faults.

10.8 Inter C/CSP Billing frequency

The AP will invoice the AS on a monthly basis for this service.