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**Optus to boost regional mobile coverage with 1800 MHz spectrum**

Optus today announced it has successfully acquired new regional licences in the 1800 MHz spectrum band.

Optus successfully acquired 2 x 20 MHz in 5 regions and 2 x 25 MHz in 7 regions for a total amount of \$196 million.

The 1800 MHz acquisition means Optus is well placed to expand its 4G network coverage to more places around Australia. The Optus mobile network currently reaches 98.5 per cent of the Australian population, with 4G services now available for more than 90 per cent of Australians.

Allen Lew, Chief Executive Officer at Optus said, "When combined with our existing assets, this additional spectrum allows Optus to support Australia's growing demand for data services in regional Australia."

"Giving more retail and business customers access to superfast 4G in more places underpins our strategy to be a mobile-led entertainment company," Mr Lew said.

Optus was successful in acquiring 1800 MHz spectrum in contiguous lots with alignment between its metropolitan and regional spectrum assets.

"The use of common frequencies between metropolitan and regional areas will help reduce dead zones across urban and rural boundaries, and give customers a seamless 4G experience when they're on the go," Mr Lew said.

The 1800 MHz band is the most popular spectrum globally for 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) deployment and is compatible with the vast majority of 4G devices currently used in Australia.

"The roll out of 4G services using 1800 MHz spectrum means Optus customers with compatible phones can enjoy superfast downloads, browsing and streaming in more places. Optus now has an expanded mix of spectrum to deliver extensive coverage and superfast speeds for more Australians," Mr Lew said.

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**Optus Current Spectrum Holdings**

<b>Spectrum</b>	<b>700MHz</b>	<b>900MHz</b>	<b>1800MHz</b>	<b>1800MHz regional</b>	<b>2.1GHz</b>	<b>2.1GHz apparatus</b>	<b>2.3GHz</b>	<b>2.6GHz</b>	<b>3.5GHz</b>
<b>Quantity</b>	2 x 10 MHz nationally (with exception of the Mid West Radio Quiet Zone)	2 x 8.4 MHz nationally	2 x 15 MHz in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide	Between 2 x 20 and 2 x 25 MHz in Regional areas	2 x 20 MHz in all 8 Australian capitals and 5 MHz in Regional areas	Up to 2 x 10 MHz in Regional and Remote areas at more than 1300 sites	98 MHz in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth 91 MHz in Sydney and Melbourne; 70 MHz in Canberra.	2 x 20 MHz nationally (with exception of the Mid West Radio Quiet Zone)	100 MHz in Melbourne; 96.5 MHz in Sydney; 65 MHz in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra
<b>Purpose</b>	4G (FDD)	2G/3G	4G (FDD)	4G (FDD)	3G	3G	4G (TDD)	4G (FDD)	Possible 4G / 5G (TDD)
<b>Licence expiry</b>	31/12/2029	15/06/2016	17/06/2028	17/06/2028	11/10/2017	05/08/2016	24/07/2030	30/09/2029	13/12/2030
<b>Renewal status</b>	Spectrum licence commenced 1 Jan 2015.	Apparatus licence. Rolling annual renewal.	**Spectrum Licence. Renewed in June 2013.	Spectrum Licence commences 30 May 2017.	**Spectrum Licence.	Apparatus licence. Rolling annual renewal.	**Spectrum Licence. Renewed on 30 April 2014.	Spectrum Licence commenced 1 Oct 2014 except in Perth and regional Western Australia, where the licence commenced on 1 Feb 2016.	** Spectrum Licence. Renewed June 2015

\*\* The 15 year spectrum licences used by Australian mobile network operators have progressively expired since 2013. The Australian Government is conducting a process that has and will lead to the renewal of expiring spectrum licences and has issued a Ministerial Pricing Direction (*Radio communications (Spectrum Access Charges) Direction 2012*) on a per MHz/Pop basis that will apply to 2017.