Radio Frequency Changes 2026

Attention all Network Users

Arc Infrastructure is updating its radio networks to comply with Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) regulatory changes. Under the Act, Arc operates its Network Communications systems under ACMA-issued Apparatus Licences. This licence covers base stations; mobile and portable radios used across rail operations.

As part of a long-term plan, all VHF radio services will be migrated to UHF radio channels. These changes will be implemented alongside major network upgrades to maintain reliability and support ongoing licence renewal.

After the transition, VHF channels will be deactivated, and all communications will operate solely on UHF.

Great Southern Railway (GSR) Line – activated 10 November

The GSR line previously utilised the '**V71**' VHF radio network for radio communications. The Avon to Albany region has been divided into two separate channels, and two new UHF radio networks have been introduced:

- U118 – Avon (-31.646734, 116.653259) to Wagin (-33.295673, 117.341632)
- U119 – Wagin (-33.295673, 117.341632) to Albany (-35.036642, 117.906685) and Wagin (-33.295673, 117.341632) to Moulyinning (-33.26439, 117.869509)
- Field signage with the new radio channels has been replaced, which are located at the northern end of Wagin Station.
- Northern Control will monitor both U118 and U119, so you'll still have coverage across the whole Avon to Albany corridor.

This change came into effect on 10 November 2026, at 10:00am. To ensure a smooth transition*, V71 will remain active and operate in parallel with U118/U119 until 24 November 2026. After this date, V71 will be decommissioned and will no longer be available for communication.*

Midland Railway (MR) Line

The first stage of the upgrade to the Midland Railway (MR) radio network goes live on Wednesday 9 December 2026 at 10:00am. Changes to radio frequencies in a further two section of the MR will be communicated in early 2027.

What's changing in December

Channel V74 will be upgraded to Channel U109- from Millendon to Marchagee and Bolgart to Miling (coordinates)

- The new channel U109 boundary remains the same as V74. Look out for the new signs in the field.

Action Required: What you need to do before 9 December

Reprogram your radios: Program radios with the latest approved U109 channels. Your radios may require reprogramming if your radio devices were configured prior to Feb 2026.

- Update automatic channel selection: If you use automatic channel selection or geofencing, this remains the same; GPS coordinates have been provided.
- Brief your people: Make sure your teams know the new channels and where the channel changes.
- Use a preferred provider if needed: If you need help with reprogramming, use one of the preferred radio service providers listed our previous emails.

On the day, field users are advised to ensure that their V74 radio is not active simultaneously with U109, as audio feedback may occur. To prevent this, either switch off the VHF radio or reduce the radio volume to minimise the risk of feedback, then select Channel VHF11 before selecting U109. Normal radio usage can be resumed once the change has been completed at your end

To ensure a smooth transition*, V74 will remain active and operate in parallel with U109 until 10.00am, 12 January 2027 After this date, V74 will be decommissioned and will no longer be available for communication.*

However, users are requested to commence using U109 as the required communication channel, effective from Wednesday 9 December at 10:00am. Please note that no further communications will be issued regarding the discontinuation of V74.

If you have any questions, please reach out Radio.Transitions@arcinfra.com and the project team will help.

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Aaron James
Network Operations Interface Principal

arc infrastructure