**My broadband mobile**

**Dept of Communications to amend ECA**

November 8, 2011

The DoC wants to “give clarity and to strengthen the powers, role and the functions of the Minister and the Authority [ICASA]” by amending the Electronic Communications Act

The Department of Communications announced in a press statement today that it has gazetted a draft amendment to the Electronic Communications Act (ECA) to “give clarity and to strengthen the powers, role and the functions of the Minister and the Authority [ICASA].”

According to the department, it wants to table the “Electronic Communications Amendment Bill” in Parliament in 2012.

“This Bill intends to improve the turn-around times for consultation processes; to make provision for policy on ownership and control; and to revise the role of the Minister and the Authority regarding frequency spectrum management,” the Department said.

The Department added that it also intends for the Bill to “refine the licensing issues as well as improving the competition provisions, and to remove regulatory challenges and any other issues around the matter.”

The bill was published on 04 November 2011 in [Government Gazette No. 34730](http://mybroadband.co.za/vb/attachment.php?attachmentid=12357&d=1320765519) and is available on the Department’s website, as well as from the MyBroadband forum.