

# **WIA Victoria - Voice and IRLP Repeater Guidelines**

## **Purpose of Repeaters**

Repeaters exist primarily to extend the communication range of mobile stations in the VHF & UHF bands. However, they may also be used as calling channels for initial contact before switching to a simplex frequency. As well, they provide contact facilities for radio amateurs in remote locations where simplex communication is not normally possible.

## **Operating Conventions**

Each transmission should not exceed two minutes. Repeaters have timers to limit transmission length.

Before replying, let the repeater "drop out" and wait at least three seconds before transmitting. This allows others immediate access.

Do not reset the timer to extend your own transmission time.

Keep contacts brief and to the point. If you have nothing to say, don't say it! Limit your group QSO to a maximum of 10 minutes.

Avoid over-use of callsigns. They are required at the start and end of a contact, and at least once every 10 minutes. Callsigns can be dropped from the start and end of transmission during a contact. Phonetics are also over-used on repeaters.

- To gain access to a repeater which is being used by others, simply announce your callsign during the pause between overs
- If using a repeater and another station announces its callsign during the pause, let the station go ahead immediately. He or she may have an urgent message
- For IRLP hold PTT down for at least a second before speaking to allow links to stabilise
- Identify by your callsign before sending IRLP DTMF commands
- DTMF capability for IRLP operation is preferred. Otherwise ask another user with DTMF to open access and/or shutdown a link
- When finished with an IRLP link check to see if others wish to use it. If not, close it down. Remember quick disconnect is DTMF 73 on most IRLP nodes

Do not transmit on repeater output frequencies. Use reverse facilities only to observe another station's input signal strength. If satisfactory, then QSY to a simplex channel.

Ignore annoying transmissions. Do not respond or comment on a transmission not identified by callsign.

There is no need to call CQ on repeaters. Just announce your callsign and say you are listening the frequency.

The use of repeaters for liaison to establish a contact on another band is permissible, but cross-band contacts using a repeater are not encouraged. Where cross-band contacts are made, all frequencies must be announced by all parties.

## **Summary**

- Be courteous and unselfish at all times, and always be aware of the needs of other people who have an equal right to share the repeater
- If you hear someone new to repeater or IRLP operation, assist and educate them in a courteous manner
- Remember others including new or potential radio amateurs monitor repeaters - the image of Amateur Radio is important

