



Australian Government



Australia

Candidate for ITU Council

2022

© Getty images

Australia in Council

Australia has consistently been a top-10 financial contributor to the ITU and is proud to have served as a Region E Council member since 1959.

Australia actively promotes a diverse, inclusive and open ITU, where member states, sector members, associates and academia can share ideas and work collaboratively.

On Council we have driven reforms on financial management and human resources to support an ITU which is transparent, accountable, inclusive and responsive to its membership.

We are committed to using our position on Council to ensure the ITU is fit for purpose with the agility and modernity to connect the unconnected and drive sustainable development in the field of ICTs.



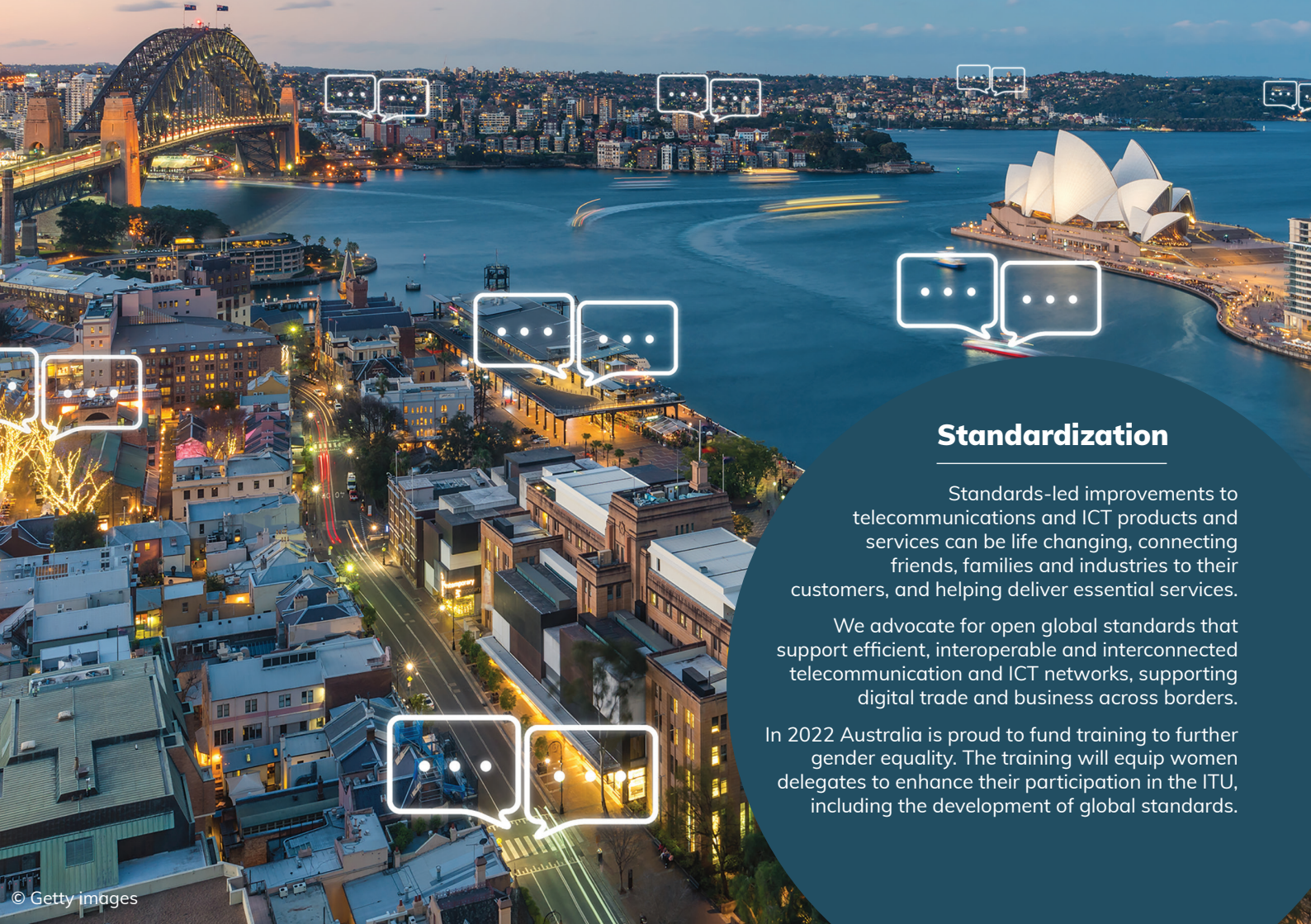
© Getty images

Building connectivity

Locally and globally, COVID-19 has underscored the importance of resilient information and communications technology (ICTs) and telecommunications networks for sharing information and keeping us all connected.

Australia is committed to continuing to build connectivity, including by supporting ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) initiatives.

With a vast and diverse landscape, and remote populations, Australia understands the challenges of distance and tough environments. We are committed to sharing our unique experience with others in improving connectivity, including on satellite coverage and mobile and fixed line infrastructure, to achieve real impact through equitable access to ICTs and telecommunications.



Standardization

Standards-led improvements to telecommunications and ICT products and services can be life changing, connecting friends, families and industries to their customers, and helping deliver essential services.

We advocate for open global standards that support efficient, interoperable and interconnected telecommunication and ICT networks, supporting digital trade and business across borders.

In 2022 Australia is proud to fund training to further gender equality. The training will equip women delegates to enhance their participation in the ITU, including the development of global standards.



Development

Australia works closely with the ITU to build regional connectivity and bridge the telecommunications and ICT divide between developing and developed countries.

We support results-focused initiatives, like fostering the mobile industry in the Pacific which has brought e-banking, connected businesses to markets and delivered critical services like telemedicine.

Australia's ongoing extra-budgetary contribution to the ITU-D has supported initiatives including:

- **Connect2Recover - Digital Infrastructure and Ecosystem Reinforcement**
- **Implementing Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives 2020-21**, to progress diverse activities including Smart Village and Smart Island initiatives
- **Child Online Protection for Asia-Pacific**

Radiocommunication

Australia is a significant contributor to global radiocommunications and has a proud heritage in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R). This includes holding chairing roles in several ITU-R Study Groups and Working Party meetings.

Australia invented WiFi technology and is also a leader in sharing radio science with the world, with significant local ventures including CSIRO's Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder.

We are committed to promoting a rational and equitable international spectrum management framework that allows for shared use of the radiofrequency spectrum and satellite orbit resources.





Helping to connect the world

Since 2018, Australia provided over **\$2.5 million** to support ITU-D projects in the Asia Pacific, and started 3 new projects.

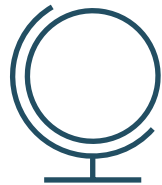


\$200 million

Australia was the majority funding contributor to the Coral Sea Cable System, connecting Port Moresby and Honiara to the world, via 4700km of undersea cable.

\$99.4 million

committed to building cyber and critical tech capacity in the Indo Pacific, mostly under the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program, enabling partner countries to respond to risks and take advantage of digital opportunities



36 active projects
across **26 nations**
and **44 projects**
completed

Supporting fast, reliable broadband

63% of Australian broadband consumers choose 50 Mbps speed plans

Australians downloaded **9.8 TB** of data in the second quarter of 2021.

83% of data consumed is on fixed broadband.



Committed to affordability

Average pricing for telecommunications equipment and services in Australia's capital cities fell

1.3%
in 2020-21.



Supporting inclusivity



There are **3,700** registered users for our **National Relay Service**,

helping Australians who are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment to make and receive phone calls.

Nearly **450,000** telephone calls relayed in 2020-21.

Radiocommunications for a new 5G network

5G is forecast to add up to \$2,000 GDP per person after the first decade of its rollout.



Spectrum auctions

held in 2018 and 2021 will facilitate 5G uptake, with licences allocated in lots:

- **26 GHz** (High-band)
- **3.6 GHz** (Medium-band)
- **850/900 MHz** (Low-band)



For more on Australia's ITU
Council election campaign:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/itu

Email: itu@communications.gov.au