



Amendments to the Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 2018 and Telecommunications Code of Practice 2021

Telstra's response

2 December 2024



Telstra welcomes the opportunity to make this submission in response to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications (the Department of Communications) amendments to the Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 2018 and Telecommunications Code of Practice 2021.

We strongly support the Government's proposals to uplift the powers and immunities framework which are critical for enhancing the efficiency and resilience of telecommunications infrastructure. These changes are vital for meeting the growing connectivity demands of Australians.

Telstra has contributed to the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) submission on this matter which provides a detailed analysis of the value of the proposed reforms.

The amendments will help streamline the deployment process and bring forward Telstra's ongoing investment in critical mobile, fixed wireless and fixed line telecommunications infrastructure (including our intercity fibre project) thereby enabling consumers and businesses to realise the benefits of enhanced telecommunications services sooner.

In particular, the proposed amendment to increase the maximum size of solar panel arrays in rural areas is welcomed. Deploying solar panels in rural areas can significantly enhance the resiliency of telecommunications facilities by reducing reliance on mains power, which is often disrupted during natural disasters. Solar panels, used in conjunction with backup batteries and diesel generators, provide an effective and resilient power solution. In some remote areas, solar panels can often be deployed more quickly compared to traditional power connections and have become our primary power source for telecommunications facilities.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Communications to ensure that that the regulatory frameworks for the deployment of telecommunications facilities are fit for purpose in the rapidly changing telecommunications environment.