



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

## Regional Connectivity Ministers' Roundtable – Communiqué

23 October 2024

Regional Connectivity Ministers convened in Sydney and virtually today. The following Ministers attended:

- The Hon Michelle Rowland, MP (Commonwealth)
- The Hon Don Punch, MLA (Western Australia)
- The Hon Clare Scriven, MLC (South Australia)
- The Hon Gabrielle Williams, MP (Victoria)
- The Hon Joshua (Josh) Burgoyne, MLA (Northern Territory)

The Hon Madeleine Ogilvie, MP (Tasmania), the Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC (New South Wales) and the Hon Jihad Dib, MP (New South Wales) were apologies for the meeting. These jurisdictions were represented by officials.

Ministers noted the ACT Government and the Queensland Government are in a caretaker period. These jurisdictions were represented by officials as observers.

Ministers agreed their priorities include:

- Ensuring public safety is maintained after the 3G shutdown
- Ongoing commitment to improving telecommunications resilience
- Promoting the development and progress of data sharing between Telecommunications providers, States and Territories and the Commonwealth to better inform government investment decisions
- Continued promotion of the importance of telecommunications infrastructure sharing, and its benefit to the community.

### *Closure of 3G*

Ministers noted actions taken to date by the Commonwealth and Telcos to prepare for the upcoming 3G closure, specifically measures undertaken to assist vulnerable persons, including those people living in regional, rural and/or remote localities. Ministers discussed and agreed that maintenance of public safety is paramount, following the 3G closure.

### *Telecommunications Resilience*

As Australia enters the high-risk weather season, with an increased chance of severe storms, floods and bushfires, Ministers reiterated their commitment to improving telecommunications resilience, particularly in times of crisis and/or emergency management. The Commonwealth will consider ways to lead a national approach to telecommunications resilience, as well as support state and territory telecommunications resilience programs.

### *Spectrum Access for State Government Services*

Minister Williams, MP tabled a Spectrum Working Group Options paper, outlining current and future state and territory government spectrum requirements and options to improve spectrum policy and regulation. Ministers discussed the paper and Minister Rowland agreed to task her department in considering the options presented in the paper.

### *Enhancing Regional Communications Data Sharing*

Ministers acknowledged the previously agreed to Data Sharing Working Group had been established and noted the draft Terms of Reference. Ministers also agreed to ongoing collaboration with the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group and relevant Digital and Data Ministers' Meeting working groups to establish common approaches to connectivity related data and broader data sharing.