

# Telecommunications is an essential enabler of Australia's modern economy



## 33%

growth in mobile data

Mobile is an essential enabler of the digital economy. Usage is growing with mobile data downloads increasing by 33 per cent in 2022-23 alone.

## \$27 billion

Deloitte Access Economics modelling undertaken in 2022 finds that being a global leader in advanced mobile connectivity would unlock Australia's productivity.



## Regulatory barriers and planning delays are holding back investment needed for full connectivity

### 537

local councils

There are 537 local councils in Australia, which exacerbates a fragmented system of regulatory instruments across all levels of government.

### 211

days

The time to secure development approval for a new telecommunications facility is approximately 211 days across the nation.

### 3+

years

The median delivery timeframe for mobile blackspot solutions is three years. However, many projects take closer to four or five years.

## Six practical policy recommendations for reform

### Immediate opportunities

- 1 Establish a Digital Infrastructure Coordinator General
- 2 Create a harmonised planning framework with adoption incentives
- 3 Amend Schedule 3 of the Act\* to adopt a risk-based approach

### Long-term reforms

- 4 Develop a National Spectrum Strategy
- 5 Create planning and land access exemptions for government co-funded sites
- 6 Implement a process for streamlining the Act\* over time

## Better mobile regulation means faster deployments, stronger investment in future ready networks and greater productivity benefits

### 25%

reduction in approval timeframes

150 – 200 accelerated sites each year delivering new or upgraded mobile coverage to up to 250,000 Australians sooner

... bringing forward up to \$160 million worth of connectivity improvements

### 10%

reduction in regulatory complexity through national consistency

\$150 million in annual productivity gains, freeing up resources for innovation, improving consumer outcomes and businesses' financial sustainability

### 10%

improvement in regulatory practices

4 per cent annual increase in telecommunications investment each year

... equivalent to \$430 million in additional investment in mobile infrastructure rollout

\*The Act refers to the Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)

The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) is the peak industry body representing Australia's mobile telecommunications industry. AMTA members include mobile network operators and service providers, mobile network infrastructure providers, mobile phone and device manufacturers, retail outlets, network equipment suppliers and other suppliers to the industry. So mobile connectivity keeps Australians connected, productive and safe.

Findings have been drawn from *Future of Mobile: Reforms to modernise Australia's telecommunications* prepared by Deloitte Access Economics and published in March 2026.