

The logo for the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) features a white stylized wave icon above the acronym "AMTA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, all contained within a white rectangular box.

AMTA

Australian Mobile
Telecommunications
Association

AMTA urges Government action to strengthen Australia's mobile future

Digital technology is indispensable to the daily lives of Australians and serves as a corner-stone for Australia's future socio-economic property. The mobile sector provides the platform for the delivery of digital applications and transformations that drive productivity across the Australian economy. The health and sustainability of the mobile sector is an important economic and policy consideration.



With the federal election approaching, the calling on
With the federal election on 3 May, the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) is calling on all political parties and the crossbench to prioritise policies that support the mobile industry's role in driving economic growth, connectivity for all, and disaster resilience. AMTA has outlined key policy recommendations to ensure mobile technology continues to deliver for all Australians.

AMTA is advocating for efficient spectrum allocation and renewal, streamlined and harmonised infrastructure deployment, and greater investment in mobile networks to strengthen resilience.

By fostering a policy environment that encourages mobile investment, Australia can unlock new economic opportunities and ensure businesses and communities benefit from next-generation connectivity.

"With the right policy settings, Australia can remain at the forefront of global mobile innovation and provision of service for all" AMTA stated. "We urge the incoming government to work closely with industry to deliver quality, resilient mobile experience for all Australians."



Challenge 1: Spectrum Access

The continued growth in demand for mobile data requires more spectrum to be deployed at mobile base station sites. This is in an environment where market revenue is flat but the need to continually invest remains.

Opportunity 1

AMTA is calling for:

- Spectrum pricing policy that, by design, recognises the contribution of the mobile sector to social and economic outcomes and the need to have a financially sustainable competitive mobile industry that is able to make greater investment in mobile network expansion and innovation.
- Sufficient broad contiguous spectrum bandwidth is provided to meet this mobile data demand, that aligns to global standards, so that industry can leverage global economies of scale in the procurement of network infrastructure and devices.



Challenge 2: Improving Infrastructure Deployment

The *Telecommunications Act 1997* is increasingly unable to strike a balance between the need to efficiently deploy telecommunications networks of national significance and protection of areas of environmental significance. Four national inquiries have recommended a need for reform.

Opportunity 2

AMTA is calling for:

- Modernisation of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* to allow for exemptions from planning approval for new mobile towers in regional Australia, so that improved service can be delivered sooner with less cost.
- Expedition of planning approval of federal funded mobile blackspot towers, and towers in peri-urban and growth areas where these need council approval under State and Territory planning systems.
- Streamline 'Maintenance' provisions in the Act to allow for emergency works without delay, installing replacement facilities and facilities inside structures.



Challenge 3: Strengthening Telecommunications resilience and preparedness for natural disasters

Mobile networks play a critical role in disaster preparedness and emergency response, and as recently shown by Cyclone Alfred, additional investment is needed to improve network resilience.

Opportunity 3

AMTA is calling for:

- Increased government funding for mobile disaster preparedness, including better infrastructure protection and emergency communication measures.
- Developing a national Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) framework in partnership with industry, ensuring emergency services have access to reliable mobile networks.
- Further collaboration between government and industry to implement Temporary Disaster Roaming (TDR) solutions that keep Australians connected when disasters strike.
- The ACMA's conformation that the existing spectrum licence framework will facilitate the early adoption of Satellite direct to device services as soon as they become technically and commercially viable.