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ATA, AMTA merger proposal to fold mobile lobby into broader telco alliance

The Australian Telecommunications Alliance and the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association will seek member approval to merge in a move that would consolidate two of the telecommunications sector's main industry bodies.

The proposed merger, announced today, has been approved by the boards of both organisations and will be put to general meetings of ATA and AMTA members. If approved, AMTA's operations would be combined under ATA, with a target completion date of June 30 2026.

The proposal would bring together the broader telecommunications industry body, formerly known as Comms Alliance, and the mobile sector's peak representative body at a time when industry advocacy is facing growing pressure from sector re-regulation.

ATA chair Deena Shiff and AMTA chair Trent Czinner said in a joint statement that the proposed merger was "an opportunity to bring together the complementary strengths, expertise and history of both organisations for the benefit of the broader telecommunications industry."

"Together, we believe a merged organisation will provide a more coordinated and effective voice for the telecommunications sector, while recognising and building on the longstanding contributions of both organisations and their members," they said.

"A united body will also put the industry in the best position to deliver for consumers, by bringing together the broad range of participants in the Australian telecoms ecosystem."

The two organisations said the merger was intended to deliver a stronger unified voice for the industry, strengthen sector advocacy and combine expertise and resources in dealings with consumers, government, regulators and other stakeholders.

The combined body would represent fixed-line, mobile and satellite connectivity interests, as well as issues linked to mobile devices and other services provided by the sector. It would also seek to cover regulatory, technical and operational issues affecting telcos, equipment suppliers, network technology vendors, mobile device manufacturers, tower cos, messaging and application providers and other industry participants.

AMTA CEO Louise Hyland said Australia's digital future depended on a telecommu-



Deena Shiff



Trent Czinner

nications sector that was connected.

“As technology and telecommunications continue to converge, a more unified industry voice can help support better engagement with government, stronger outcomes for consumers and a continued focus on the positive social contribution the sector can make,” she said.

Hyland said that if the merger was approved by members, the organisations would seek to ensure the expertise, programs, committees and member value of both bodies were “recognised and strengthened” through the merged organisation.

ATA CEO Luke Coleman said the merger would strengthen the sector at a critical time for Australia’s digital economy.

“The Australian telecommunications industry needs a strong and united voice now more than ever,” he said.

“Digital infrastructure is the foundation of the modern economy – the networks, devices and services provided by the telecommunications industry are essential to everyday life. A strong telecommunications industry is good for Australia and good for Australians, and this proposed merger will strengthen the sector’s representation,” Coleman added.

CommsDay understands cost savings are not the primary goal of the merger and that budgets will be maintained for now. If approved, AMTA staff will migrate to ATA.

The merger is the culmination of what CommsDay understands has been nearly two years of discussions between telcos on how best to represent themselves. The case for change has been reinforced by recent regulatory setbacks such as the cancellation of the TCP Code regime and the proposed high spectrum renewal prices.

Grahame Lynch

Australian research is improving emergency calling globally

The “world-first capability” that Australia’s mobile operators helped develop in response to high-profile Triple Zero outages is helping to improve the resilience of emergency calling globally, according to UTS professor Ray Owen.

Owen, who is director of UTS’ telecom research unit and director of the National Telecom Resilience Centre, told a CommsDay event Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom deserved praise for putting aside their differences and collaborating on an important issue.

The NTRC was established with a mandate to bring the Australian telecom industry together to address telecom resilience and emergency calling reliability.

The board consists of representatives from Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom, as well as the Australian Telecommunications Alliance and the communications department, Owen said.

“That governance structure, three competing operators sitting around the same table over a shared problem, is quite genuinely unusual. It reflects a maturity and a seriousness of pur-



Professor Ray Owen

pose that I think the Australian telecommunications industry deserves credit for,” Owen said.

The NTRC has two core functions, Owen said: six-monthly cross-network emergency call testing under an industry code and research focused on enhancing Triple Zero reliability and network resilience more broadly.

The centre’s research to date has explored the “deceptively simple” question of why major network outages occur, Owen said. An analysis of 59 publicly reported nation-scale outages worldwide found most major outages started inside the network with a misconfiguration or human error. Misconfigurations alone accounted for 23.7% of outages studied, while software faults accounted for a further 15.3%.

“Over 50% of those outages directly disrupted Triple Zero emergency calling, and 73% can be traced back to what we have termed the sovereign functions of IP, a specific set of critical network protocols whose misconfiguration can cascade across an entire modern telecom network, reaching every service that depends upon it, including Triple Zero,” Owen said.

“Crucially, both of the major Optus outages in Australia involved misconfigured sovereign functions, not physical damage, not external attack, internal configuration changes that cascaded into a nationwide service disruption.”

In the wake of the 2023 outage, the Bean Review recommended that industry conduct six-monthly end-to-end testing of the Triple Zero ecosystem across all operators and device types, Owen said. UTS was contracted to develop the facility now being used to conduct that testing.

TESTING FACILITY: Owen said the testing facility, located near Sydney Airport, was Australia’s largest near-field anechoic and antenna chamber. The RF testing facility is used to test real mobile network devices at current frequencies in a controlled electromagnetic environment isolated from a live network.

Testing conducted to date has demonstrated 100% completion rates for both normal emergency call operation and emergency camp-on operations, involving a device automatically detecting and connecting with another available network to route an emergency call if it is out of range of the provider’s network.

But the problem emerges when a network is transmitting RF but has failed underneath, causing the handset to connect to what appears to be an available network, Owen said.

“From there, what the handset should do, how long it should try, how many retries, when to abandon, and when to move on is not precisely defined by the network standards. Different manufacturers implement it differently, and in a deep network failure, that ambiguity can mean the difference between a call connecting and a call failing silently,” he said.

“The issue is understood. The question is, how to test and how to fix, and for that you need a purpose-built facility.”

The facility developed by UTS in partnership with industry is the world’s first multi-operator, multi-device emergency call testing environment and has already delivered outcomes well beyond Australia, he said.

“Round one of the testing was completed in March, and the findings led directly to software updates from Apple, Google and other major device manufacturers globally,

not just in Australia,” Owen said.

“We saw multiple device manufacturers roll out software updates, and we measured a significant improvement in emergency call completion rates. As a result, this tells us something critically important – this is fixable,” he said.

“The reputation of Australian telecommunications is rebuilt not through announcements of what we will do, but through evidence of what we’ve done, and I believe this is evidence.”

Dylan Bushell-Embling

Industry can’t shy away from failures, IAA CEO says

End-user expectations have, in some cases, outpaced what industry can technically and commercially deliver, a CommsDay event heard yesterday.

Internet Association of Australia CEO Narelle Clark told the event that this did not mean the sector could brush over its real failures, particularly when some, such as Triple Zero outages, can have a devastating impact on communities.

The industry needed to “look in the mirror and own up to our mistakes,” Clark said. However, the IAA CEO warned that the current regulatory landscape was strangling smaller providers.

While some of the key issues that have damaged the industry are the fault of larger providers, “smaller providers also bear the cost of this tarnished reputation,” she said.

However, the drive to “regulate our way out of this problem” held “huge risks,” Clark said.

“Introducing more and more regulation without due consideration into the technical and operational realities is only setting industry up to fail,” she told the event.

“There is a disproportionate effect on smaller, challenger carriers and carriage service providers who are expressing more and more and more frequently that they will no longer be able to grow or perhaps even operate in what is already a constrained competitive landscape.”

It was often smaller providers that had the strongest links to local communities and delivered connectivity to underserved communities, she said.

“The main reasons consumers switch to these businesses is consumer satisfaction that they don’t believe they’re getting with the bigger players,” Clark said.

She cited Aussie Broadband, which started as a small challenger telco and is now one of the most trusted telco brands in the country.

“But had the current regulatory settings existed when ABB was growing, it would have faced significant challenges,” she said.

The IAA CEO said an improved regulatory framework was long overdue.



Narelle Clark

“We have too many regulations, we’ve got too many slapped on top of others without enough thought, without enough consideration, without enough feedback,” she said. “And many of them have competing objectives.”

Clark called for a “sensible root and branch review,” but said there were also steps industry could take to help improve trust. These included telcos having engineers explain publicly and authentically the effort they were putting into delivering resilient networks. She also called for the sector to adopt technologies that can improve trust, such as RPKI to certify routes.

“We need to make upgrades to more reliable devices easier for customers... We need to be... proactive in good product development and in providing the answers to our customers and consumers. We need to facilitate security and assist customers to make and maintain secure networks,” she said.

Clark also called for industry to participate in good faith in industry associations.

AMTA WEIGHS IN: Addressing the event, Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association CEO Louise Hyland also acknowledged the toll that issues such as outages can have on communities.

“We have had several major events in the last few years which have seriously broken trust between mobile network operators and the Australian public,” she said.

“The most serious of these was the Triple Zero incidents revealed last year, where two fatalities were related to a large number of unconnected emergency calls.”

The AMTA CEO said building resilience and capacity were key to mobile network operators rebuilding trust. She said the Australian Communications and Media Authority’s proposed pricing for expiring spectrum licences could have an impact on infrastructure investment and was “arguably a short-sighted decision.”



Louise Hyland

Hyland called for a suite of regulatory measures to support investment and infrastructure deployment, including the creation of a national digital infrastructure coordinator general. She said the role would help address barriers to infrastructure deployment and play a role in situations such as restoring mobile coverage after extreme weather events.

Hyland said she was heartened by the federal government’s commitment to review Telco Act provisions governing infrastructure deployment.

“It is very encouraging that this, in particular, is the reform that has been committed to on budget night, but we do not want this to be a line item that never makes it past a thought bubble,” she said.

“This has to be prioritised for the good of the nation and to boost resilience and responsiveness,” she added, describing it as “one of the most practical and transformative reforms we would witness in terms of the positive flow-on effects and rebuilding trust with consumers.”

Rohan Pearce

Mere compliance not enough, Ombudsman tells industry

Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Cynthia Gebert has said industry trust will not be rebuilt only by complying with minimum standards or waiting for rules to be enforced. Addressing a CommsDay event, the ombudsman said providers had tended to be reactive rather than proactive.

The organisations that recover trust the fastest are the ones that act early, before regulation is needed or beyond what is required by law, Gebert said.

“Trust will be rebuilt by choosing to do what’s fair – before there’s failure and before anyone forces the choice on you,” Gebert said.

Mistakes are inevitable in any industry, she observed, “but what matters to consumers is what happens after a mistake is made.”

“And from what I can see, this is where reputation is being damaged in delays, inconsistency, and unclear communication, in commitments not being followed through, and a lack of flexibility or compassion when it is needed,” she said.

The ombudsman added, however, that trust could remain intact even when things go wrong, as long as the fundamentals of a good relationship were in place: reliability, honesty and respect.

She warned of a gap between consumer expectations and lived experience.

“We continue to hear from your customers who are doing the right thing, asking early, explaining their situation, and still not getting appropriate customer service,” Gebert said.

“And too often we hear how an unresolved telco problem, or a series of avoidable errors or poor communication make an already difficult situation much worse.”

Gebert also detailed work commissioned by the TIO from Bevington Group, which involved an end-to-end examination of the organisation’s complaint system and an analysis of around 9000 unique cases.

The Bevington review concluded that the delay consumers experience is not the result of a single issue but is “systemic,” she said.

While some of those drivers sit within the TIO, a significant amount sits outside it. Much of the time is not spent resolving complaints but waiting for providers to act, supply information or provide the right information so the TIO can progress complaints, Gebert said.

The TIO committed to take a more structured approach to working with telcos to address delays and repeat issues at the source.

“A significant proportion of complaints are also what we would call ‘failure demand’ – issues that should not have come to the TIO in the first place,” Gebert said.

“This is when complaints arise from systemic or repeat problems, or issues that could have been resolved much earlier with better communication and accountability.”

QUANTIFYING TRUST: Gebert’s address followed an analysis earlier in the day by Roy



Cynthia Gebert

Morgan CEO Michele Levine confirming the significant level of active distrust of the telco sector among Australians.

Levine said Australia overall had entered a new era of distrust, observing that rebuilding trust can be “a real slog” for organisations.

“Unfortunately, the Roy Morgan Risk Lab has identified telecommunications as the most distrusted sector overall, ahead of social media and mining and government,” Levine said.

Even banks are more trusted than distrusted, she added.

“When we began this research, it was essentially Facebook was the real sort of poster child of evil,” Levine said.

Levine said the implications for telco industry leaders “are really clear.”

“Future disruptive events will not be well received,” she said.

“Service failures, data [breach] events, pricing decisions, workforce changes, regulatory scrutiny or transformation missteps, all very possible, can escalate quickly when stakeholders are already primed to think the industry organisation will put itself first when it really matters.”

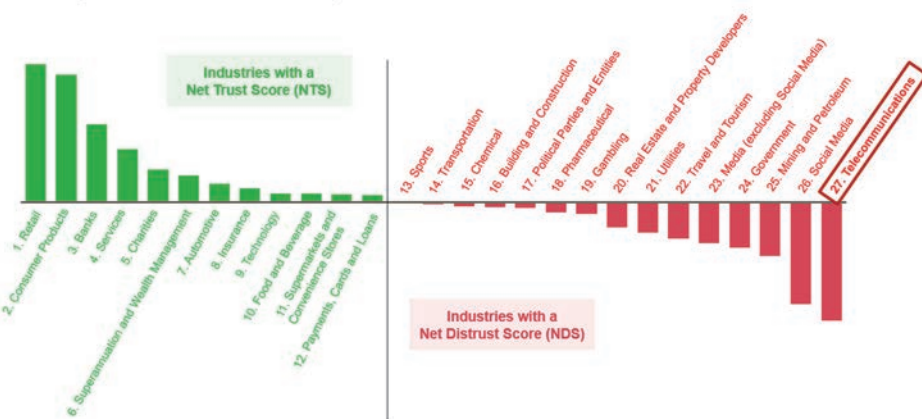
Trust could not be left to advertising but had to be “engineered into the system,” she said.

“Fewer failures, faster fixes, the pricing and instant honesty when things go wrong. For telcos, there’s really never been a time when trust and critically, distrust... has mattered more to growth, resilience and licence to operate.”

Telcos should make sure they explicitly measure distrust, she said. They also need to make a “sustained effort over years, not months” to address the issue, she added.

Samira Sarraf

Industry Net Scores - Ranked by Net Score March 2026



23 Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia) Risk Monitor, 12-month average to March 2026.

ROY MORGAN

Stronger guardrails to help rebuild confidence in telco sector: Chisholm

Rebuilding confidence in the telco sector must be underpinned by the “three Rs” of respect for consumers, reliability of services and responsibility in delivering an essential service, assistant minister for regional development Senator Anthony Chisholm said yesterday.

On top of that was the “fourth R” of regulation, Chisholm told a CommsDay event in Sydney.

Restoring confidence in the sector “will require investment and innovation as well

as stronger guardrails, accountability and a regulatory framework to meet government and consumer expectations,” Chisholm said.

“Restoration is entirely possible and we are truly optimistic about this sector,” he said.

“We believe the Australian telco sector has the opportunity to enter a new era defined by respect, reliability and responsibility.”

The telco industry sits at the centre of Australia’s digital future, the senator said. That was why the federal government planned to consult on reforms later this year to facilitate infrastructure deployment, remove redundant facilities and strengthen consumer choice, he told the event.

“These reforms are about striking the right balance between investment, innovation, accountability and community,” Chisholm said.

“The reforms will be designed to create a more supportive regulatory environment, one that improves connectivity while ensuring providers continue to meet community expectations.”

He said Triple Zero failures “have demonstrated how fragile public trust can become when essential services fail.” The Triple Zero Custodian’s work on the issue has entered a new phase, with consultation launched last week as part of the legislative review of the emergency calling system.

Chisholm also said there had been strong support for the government’s plan to legislate a Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation. The bill “sends a clear signal to industry the government wants direct-to-device services delivered in Australia.”

“We want competition in this market and we expect timely and fair delivery,” he said, noting that the legislation would include a broad standards power enabling the communications minister to “act if the industry does not deliver for consumers.”

Rohan Pearce



Anthony Chisholm

UOMO bill poses reputational risks for telcos: Henderson

The Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation poses a major reputational risk for telcos, shadow communications minister Senator Sarah Henderson warned yesterday.

Addressing a CommsDay event, Henderson accused the federal government of “putting all of its eggs in the satellite connectivity basket to deliver for regional communities,” noting the absence of any new regional telecom funding initiatives.

The Uomo bill says Australians will get universal outdoor mobile connectivity by 1 December 2027, Henderson said.

“The only problem with that is that technology does not currently exist,” she said,



Sarah Henderson

putting telcos “in a very invidious position.”

The senator said there was “enormous uncertainty” in relation to the UOMO, with the legislation “an aspirational framework.”

“It reads more like a press release than a bill which presents clear deliverables,” she said, adding that the government “is actively misleading Australians by saying that this is going to change the landscape when it knows only too well that the technology does not currently exist.”

“I recall probably more than 10 years ago saying to a former CEO of Telstra, I had this great dream that one day every Australian will be able to use their phone and connect no matter where they stand in this great country,” Henderson said.

“I think that was met with some scepticism. The landscape is dramatically changing, but for the government to present this bill in the lead-up to the next election and to say we’ve delivered and then of course frame this legislation in a way which will then arguably allow it to blame the telcos is highly irresponsible and as I say, fundamentally misleads Australians.”

The senator also noted the broad powers the UOMO bill conferred on the communications minister to set reliability and pricing standards but said “none of that work has been done.”

The government was asking parliament to pass a bill where the “policy grunt” was in the legislative instruments not before parliament, she said.

Henderson also called for a “serious re-examination” of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s 2017 conclusion that mandatory mobile roaming would stifle investment in regional communities, citing evidence presented during the Senate UOMO inquiry.

“TPG supports it,” she noted.

“Optus is pretty quiet. Telstra is a bit more fiercely opposed to mobile roaming. I get it. I understand why the telcos have different views. But I think the failure to seriously examine mandatory mobile roaming is a real policy failure and we just can’t operate on a wing and a prayer, particularly when this landscape is changing so dramatically.”

Henderson said telcos “have got a pretty big job to restore trust and confidence” but there was also a role for government, with a “policy vacuum” making the task tougher for industry.

Rohan Pearce

Digital divide still affecting First Nations communities

First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group co-chair Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker said telecommunications service reliability, affordability and customer experience problems were more common and often more severe in remote First Nations communities.

Speaking at a CommsDay event, Ormond-Parker said there remained 600 First Nations communities without mobile coverage or access to reliable internet services.

But even in communities with adequate coverage, frequent phone and internet out-

ages can leave residents with limited access to emergency services for days or even weeks, he said.

“In Wadeye across March and April this year, for example, rolling outages of the Telstra service led to members of the community reporting they were unable to access Triple Zero across that period,” Ormond-Parker said.

“Beyond access to Triple Zero, the impact of limited or no internet connectivity on First Nations communities is significant. From using EFTPOS in the local store, to streaming the football or news, or access MyGov, digital exclusion continues to affect many elements of everyday life.”

Reliable internet access was also affected by affordability challenges facing many First Nations Australians, Ormond-Parker said, noting that up to 94% of people living in First Nations communities rely on prepaid mobile services for voice and data. He said higher pricing for prepaid plans disproportionately affected lower-income households, remote communities and the elderly.

“This is why in our roadmap we have called for more telcos to offer prepaid services, particularly for broadband, and for telcos to move towards price parity across prepaid and post-paid services,” Ormond-Parker said.

Restoring trust would also require avoiding a repeat of the issues the industry faced involving the sale of mobile contracts to First Nations consumers who did not want or need them, could not use them and in many cases could not afford them, he added.

“We need to ensure that, as new technologies with high demand for First Nations and remote communities enter the market, this unconscionable conduct is not repeated,” he said.

“Restoring trust means designing sales models, financial hardship protections, and customer service pathways that build in the economic realities of remote, pre-paid users.”

Ormond-Parker welcomed the Australian Communications and Media Authority’s decision to move towards direct regulation on some of these issues and said the advisory group was looking forward to the establishment of mandatory consumer protections enforceable by law. But he said the true test of regulatory success would be whether the reformed regulations changed outcomes for the people most affected.

“Let us ensure that our people are empowered with transparent information and the exact technology they need, rather than being treated as a captive market for tech they cannot use,” Ormond-Parker said.

Likewise, while the advisory group was pleased to see the planned Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation, the success of the regime would require a clear focus during implementation on issues such as the affordability of direct-to-device compatible



Dr Lyndon Ormond-Parker

handsets, he said.

“If direct-to-device functionality is kept behind premium, lock-in post-paid contracts, the benefits will be inaccessible to many First Nations Australians and remote communities and other people living in poverty,” he said.

“We call on industry and government to work together to make sure affordable D2D mobile devices are available in community stores, including options for prepaid plans, to ensure emergency connectivity is never determined by a credit score or a person’s income.”

This should be done before implementation to ensure First Nations Australians can enjoy the benefits of the UOMO on an equitable basis with other Australians, Ormond-Parker said. There should also be robust and culturally appropriate consumer protections in place to eliminate the mis-selling of expensive, incompatible or misunderstood D2D hardware, he added.

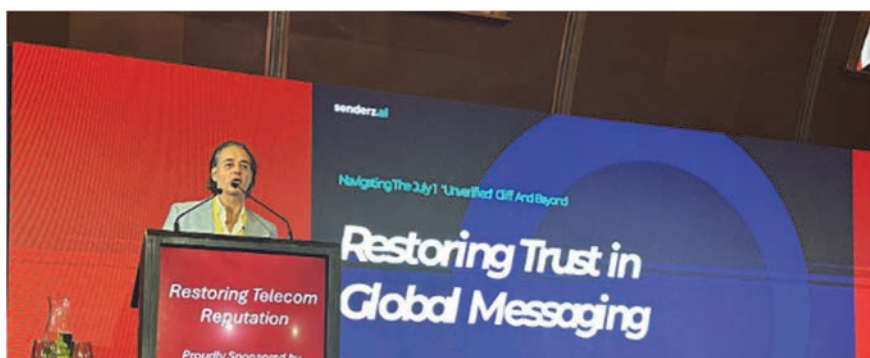
Dylan Bushell-Embling

Sender ID Register can help restore trust in commercial messaging: Senderz.ai

The implementation of the SMS Sender ID Register represents an opportunity to rebuild confidence in SMS as a trusted channel for enterprise and government communications, Senderz.ai founder Dan Rosen believes.

Speaking at a CommsDay event, Rosen noted that the Australian Communications and Media Authority’s SMS Sender ID Register goes live on 1 July. From that date, every branded SMS message must be sent by a registered sender or it will be labelled “unverified.”

Global SMS-based fraud is estimated to exceed \$25b annually and the scale of the problem is causing significant reputational harm, he said.



Dan Rosen

“Brand impersonation, smishing and artificially inflated traffic have all contributed to consumers’ diminishing trust of branded SMS. Enterprises are losing brand value, and worldwide sender ID mandates reshaping the messaging landscape. Non-compliance is no longer an option,” Rosen said.

Rosen said ACMA had developed one of the most robust systems in Asia-Pacific in consultation with industry. But he said the enforcement burden would fall on the telecom industry.

Another issue that needed to be addressed was the fragmented nature of the global response to SMS fraud. There are now more than 50 markets with some form of sender ID pre-registration or protection scheme, Rosen noted.

“Each one has different rules, forms, verification processes, entity validation re-

quirements, and timelines. For a CPaaS provider managing hundreds of thousands of clients across APAC, EMEA, and the Americas. This is not a compliance exercise. This is an operational crisis,” he said.

“Global compliance chaos is breaking SMS, and the only way through is automation. This is where Senderz.ai comes in.”

Senderz.ai has been developed to operate as an independent, carrier-agnostic compliance layer that sits between regulators, brands and telcos, automating the registration, verification and market monitoring that currently requires a large amount of labour and time, Rosen said.

Rosen said the real goal of sender ID registration was to restore consumers’ trust in branded messaging.

“The journey doesn’t end with the ACMA SMS Sender ID registry, it accelerates. Rich Communications Services are coming ... the verification requirements will become even stricter. The registration infrastructure we build today will become the foundation for the next generation of trusted messaging,” he said.

Rosen’s remarks came as the federal government kicked off the one-month countdown to the introduction of verified SMS sender ID.

The government said more than 12,000 sender IDs had already been registered. The Register will help establish a safe and trusted communications channel by blocking scammers trying to impersonate legitimate businesses, government agencies and other organisations, the government said.

Communications minister Anika Wells said: “Each year, SMS scams rip off hard-working Australians to the tune of millions of dollars – and we want to put a stop to it. The SMS Sender ID Register will help protect hard-working Australians from scammers and is another tool the Albanese Government is adding to its arsenal of the world’s toughest anti-scam laws. As well as better protecting Australians from scammers, the Register will improve trust in communications from legitimate companies, with consumers having more confidence that SMS messages are from who they say they are.”

Dylan Bushell-Embling

How NZ telcos avoid being top target for gripes

NZ Telecommunications Forum CEO Paul Brislen has said the industry has managed to avoid being one of the top bug-bears for New Zealanders.

“And we work quite hard to keep it that way,” Brislen told a CommsDay event.

“But it does have a flip side. It means that when it comes to policy work, the ministers, shadow and in power at the moment, tend to not have any ideas,” Brislen said.

“It’s very easy for media and for



Paul Brislen

politicians to earn brownie points from bagging telcos,” he observed.

Reputation, management and trust are the key issues for the TCF, and Brislen said he always “runs all the activities through that lens of reputation impact”. He added that working with regulators and saying “yes, and?” rather than “no, because” had proved to be effective.

“Working with regulators is a lot easier than being opposed to them,” he said.

“Now, I say that in a very benign environment and I’m sure a number of you in the room will disagree with me over here, but that is one of the things we’ve learned. It’s taken about 10 years to get that bedded in.”

Some of the areas the TCF is focusing on include rural connectivity, digital equity and managing the switch-off of copper services.

Samira Sarraf

QUANTIUM TELSTRA CEO MOVES TO TELSTRA DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

After three and a half years as chief executive of Quantum Telstra, Sandy Cameron has moved into the newly created role of executive, Australia Infrastructure AI, within Telstra Digital Infrastructure. “We are at a genuine inflection point. AI isn’t just changing software — it’s reshaping physical infrastructure: how it’s designed, operated, scaled and monetised,” Cameron said. “Telstra is responding by bringing together InfraCo, international and field services into a single, integrated digital infrastructure business — built to operate faster, at scale, and with end-to-end accountability in a rapidly accelerating market.” Shiraz Amod has been appointed as the new CEO of Quantum Telstra.

NERIDA CAESAR JOINS TPG BOARD

Nerida Caesar has joined TPG Telecom’s board as an independent non-executive director, filling the vacancy left by Robert Millner’s retirement. Caesar has held senior roles at Equifax and Telstra. TPG Telecom chair Canning Fok said: “Ms Caesar is a highly experienced director who has served on boards and in executive roles at some of Australia’s leading companies, including in telecommunications and financial services. We are very pleased to welcome her to the board as an independent non-executive director.” Caesar will join the audit and risk committee, the remuneration and governance committee and the nomination committee.

HARVEST APPOINTS VERONICA BANTON AS CEO

Veronica Bainton has been appointed chief executive of ASX-listed Harvest Technology Group, which supports network-optimised remote operations. Bainton was previously director, governance and industry engagement at Optus Satellite and Space Systems.

VANESSA MORLEY TO BECOME VOCUS CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER

Vanessa Morley will join Vocus as its chief people officer, effective 3 August. “Vanessa is an experienced people and culture executive with an impressive record of accomplishment building at scale high-performing and differentiated teams and cultures,”

Vocus CEO Andres Irlando said. Morley is currently chief people officer at Nine, joining the media company in 2018 from Coca-Cola Amatil, where she was group head of talent.

GOOGLE DETAILS GLOBAL NETWORK BEHIND AI HYPERCOMPUTER

Google has detailed the global network architecture underpinning its artificial intelligence infrastructure and services, including the AI Hypercomputer platform used to support its AI products and inference applications. It said AI-related traffic on its wide area network had grown 10-fold between 2020 and 2025, with training workloads often requiring large datasets to be moved from on-premises sites or across clouds. Google said its AI-native Cloud Interconnect now supported 400Gbps links scaling in 3.2Tbps increments to petabit-per-second capacity. The company said moving from a 100Gbps link to a 3.2Tbps connection could cut the time required to transfer a petabyte of data from 22.2 hours to 0.7 hours, reducing AI compute idle time by 97%. Google said its AI inference network now spanned more than 10 million kilometres of terrestrial and subsea fibre, connecting more than 200 edge locations, 43 cloud regions and more than 175 verified peering providers. "The AI era demands more than just raw compute; it necessitates a robust network fabric to scale," the authors said.

GLOBE LAUNCHES PERSONAL CLOUD FOR CUSTOMERS

Philippines telco Globe Telecom has deployed a white-labelled cloud platform from Synchronoss Technologies to launch a branded personal cloud service for its more than 54 million customers. The service allows subscribers to back up, sync and manage photos, videos and files, with storage plans ranging from 50GB to 2TB. Globe said the product would be available with a 90-day free trial before being offered as a standalone service and bundled with Globe plans.

SAMSUNG AND LG UPLUS SIGN 6G ISAC R&D MOU

Samsung Electronics and LG Uplus have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly research Integrated Sensing and Communications technologies for 6G. The companies plan to validate the technology using 5G systems operating in the 7GHz band, a candidate frequency range for 6G. Samsung's research unit will develop core ISAC technologies, while LG Uplus will manage field testing and infrastructure preparation. Initial use cases will focus on human sensing and other location-based applications.

TELENOR IOT TAPS SATELIOT FOR GLOBAL SERVICE

Telenor IoT, the Internet of Things unit of the Nordic telco group, has signed a partnership with Spanish satellite IoT operator Sateliot. The companies said they had successfully tested Telenor IoT SIM cards on Sateliot's 3GPP Release 17 5G non-terrestrial network-compliant satellites, demonstrating an extended connection period without requiring modified devices, custom antennas or special firmware.

10 YEARS AGO IN COMMSDAY

Trident Subsea Cable has bolstered its board with the appointment of two key former iiNet staff: David Buckingham, who was CEO when iiNet was acquired by TPG last year, and former business development manager and CTO Greg Bader.

An Australian Competition and Consumer Commission proposal to exempt CBD areas from new regulations covering superfast broadband services has riled a number of carriers. The exemption would apply to services supplied to business, charity and public body end-users and was included in a revised draft service description distributed by the ACCC.

Optus Business has teamed with Macquarie University to create a A\$10 million multi-disciplinary cyber security facility, aimed at businesses and government agencies seeking to protect themselves from the rapidly growing threat of cyber attacks.

Melbourne cloud tech firm Dubber has clinched a deal with collaboration and VoIP specialist BroadSoft Japan to deliver its audio call recording tech for the latter's BroadCloud platform, a managed unified comms offering pitched at Japan-based telco carriers.

LATEST SHARE PRICES

Company name	Change (%)	Last price	Change	Volume	Market cap
5G Networks Limited	0.00%	0.0870	0.0000	88,582	23.499M
Pentanet Limited	-10.00%	0.0180	-0.0020	348,545	7.797M
Aussie Broadband Limited	+5.03%	5.64	+0.27	4.886M	1.655B
Comms Group Limited	0.00%	0.0740	0.0000	235,277	40.46M
Chorus Limited	-1.61%	7.94	-0.13	439,331	3.445B
Macquarie Technology Group Limited	+2.20%	76.34	+1.64	46,364	1.968B
Megaport Limited	+7.02%	16.61	+1.09	1.885M	3.054B
NEXTDC Limited	+1.84%	15.52	+0.28	1.693M	11.215B
Superloop Limited	+0.86%	3.5000	+0.0300	4.128M	1.801B
Spark New Zealand Limited	-0.92%	1.6100	-0.0150	1.002M	3.043B
Swoop Holdings Limited	-2.11%	0.0930	-0.0020	186,099	28.929M
Telstra Group Limited	-0.96%	5.16	-0.05	18.992M	57.738B
TPG Telecom Limited	+2.56%	4.0000	+0.1000	3.082M	7.852B

About Communications Day (including Space & Satellite AU & The Line New Zealand)

Communications Day is the telecommunications news bible of ANZ. Published daily since August 1994, CommsDay is expertly written and edited by a team of industry writers with a combined 80 years experience in telecoms across Australia, NZ, Asia, the United States and Europe. CommsDay is available by subscription only and read by up to 10,000 industry executives as well as policymakers and parliamentarians every week day. Around 90% of our readers are in Australia, 5% in New Zealand and the remainder across the rest of the world including Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom.

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Monday 1 through Wednesday 3 June 2026, Fullerton Hotel Sydney
Last few registrations available at commsday.com

TUESDAY 2 JUNE (Grand Ballroom, Basement)

MC: Joe Hildebrand

8.00am Registration and coffee

Morning Keynotes

9.00am Optus chief customer officer Anthony Shiner
9.20am Ericsson ANZ managing director Ludvig Landgren
9.40am Amazon Web Services head of telco, Australia Nathan Hill
10.00am Cisco ANZ chief technology officer Carl Solder
10.20am Superloop group executive, consumer Mehul Dave
10.40am Break sponsored by Maser

Morning Plenary

11.20am Accenture ANZ Communications & Media Industry Lead Gohulan Sivathanan
11.40am BAI Communications chief commercial officer Elyssa Rollinson
12.00pm Vocus CEO Andrés Irlando
12.20pm Indara CEO Emilio Romeo
12.40pm Kearney partner Zorawar Singh and global lead, comms, media & tech Owen Tracey

1pm Lunch

Afternoon Plenary

1.50pm NetComm sales director Andrew James & technology director Charlie Warren
2.05pm CloudRAN.ai MD Bai Wei
2.20pm HPE Networking senior director, SP APJ Garry Turner
2.35pm Uniti Group CEO Kevin Teoh
2.50 Refreshment break
Afternoon Keynotes
3.20pm SUBCO founder and co-CEO Bevan Slattery
3.40pm Australian Competition and Consumer Commission commissioner Anna Brakey
4.00pm Australian Telecommunications Alliance CEO Luke Coleman
4.20pm Australian Communications and Media Authority chair Nerida O'Loughlin
4.40pm TPG Telecom CTO Giovanni Chiarelli 5pm Close
7pm CommsDay annual dinner (not part of Summit registration)

WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE (Grand Ballroom, Basement)

8.00am Registration and coffee

Morning Keynotes

9.00am Optus CTO Sri Amirthalingam
9.20am Nokia managing director, Oceania Adrian Heley
9.40am NBN CO CEO Ellie Sweeney
10.00am Commscope SVP, Broadband Networks Philippe Vanhille
10.20am Telstra InfraCo CEO Steven Worrall
10.40am Break

Morning Plenary

11.20am Allot VP product management Moti Goldshtein
11.40am Viasat senior vice president Carlin Charteris
12.00pm ANDREW engineering fellow Marty Zimmerman
12.20pm Aussie Broadband CEO Brian Maher
12.40pm Red Hat regional telco leader, south Asia and ANZ Jonathan Ang
1pm Lunch

Closing Session

1.50pm Dell principal network architect Tim Anstey & AMD Sr. Solutions Architect – ANZ Egor Pyrkov
2.05pm Blue Planet senior solutions architect Mitchell Stafford
2.20pm Sateliot chief commercial officer Gianluca Redolfi

2.35pm 7-MINUTE Lightning Talks: Netcracker master solutions engineer Anton Petrov, Critical Infrastructure Consulting founder and principal Dan Whitford, Incognito VP sales Gonzalo Jofre, Madison Connectivity CTO David White, IAA CEO Narelle Clark

3.20pm Great Debate including Long Street Advisors CEO Mohammad Chowdhury, TM Forum EVP, AI Guy Lupo, NEXTDC head of colocation Chris Losco, IAA CEO Narelle Clark

4.00 Close

Full coverage in CommsDay this week