

Best Effort.

The weekday briefing on Australian telecommunications, data centres and AI infrastructure.

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Tuesday 27 October 2026

- Data centre power and approvals dominate the edition.
- A Smart Energy Council analysis says 5 GW of new load joining the east coast grid without new generation would add \$40 billion to wholesale costs between 2029 and 2035, and Tim Ayres told Senate Estimates that federal legislation will arrive "shortly".
- Planning papers point to Princeton Digital Group's first Australian facility, a 100MW Campbelltown project above A\$1 billion, while Adelaide Hills farmers oppose a 1200MW proposal at Tungkillo.
- NextDC is replacing its chair after the M3 delay.

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Smart Energy Council puts \$40 billion price tag on data centres connecting without new supply

A Smart Energy Council analysis says 5 GW of data centre load joining the east coast grid without new generation would lift wholesale power costs by \$40 billion between 2029 and 2035. Industry minister Tim Ayres told Senate Estimates on Monday that federal legislation will arrive "shortly".

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The SEC's modelling, from an advocacy body rather than a regulator, frames the coming federal data centre legislation as the point that decides whether new load or other customers bear the cost of supply lagging demand. A queue of 9 GW of proposed data centre connections and constrained grid capacity in Western Sydney show how quickly the question is arising.

The Smart Energy Council (SEC) says connecting 5 gigawatts of data centre demand to the east coast grid without matching new generation would add \$40 billion to wholesale electricity costs across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia between 2029 and 2035. The council describes the 5 GW case as a stress test, based on what the Australian Energy Market Operator already has in its connection queue and on later announcements. The analysis examines a "build first, catch up later" approach, which one Australian Energy Market Commission recommendation has pointed towards.

Households would carry an estimated \$9 billion of the total in their bills across the National Electricity Market between 2029-30 and 2034-35, according to the SEC, with commercial users and manufacturers left with most of the remaining \$31 billion. RenewEconomy reported a different split, saying about \$37 billion would be paid by everyone other than the data centres, as extra demand lets more expensive gas generation fill supply gaps while renewables catch up.

Queensland is hit hardest, carrying about \$20 billion of the modelled cost, or half the national total. The SEC says a Queensland household on a standard bill would pay an extra \$370 a year from 2029-30. Victoria faces \$9.1 billion, New South Wales \$8.9 billion and South Australia \$2.1 billion. The SEC links Queensland's exposure to the state's plan to support new gas and coal stations.

The SEC cited work by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Baringa that found New South Wales wholesale prices would be 26 per cent higher in 2035 without matching new supply, against 3 per cent higher where renewables and storage are added alongside the load. It also cited Green Energy Markets estimates that a new coal power station built for a single data centre could cost taxpayers between \$15 billion and \$20 billion.

SEC chief executive David McElrea said Australians in a cost-of-living crisis "can't be expected to foot the bill for tech companies and artificial intelligence infrastructure." The council wants mandatory requirements for data centres to bring their own new renewable energy and storage, written into legislation as a condition of grid connection.

Industry minister Tim Ayres told a Senate Estimates hearing on Monday that the government will introduce the legislation "shortly". Ayres said the law will use national rules to ensure the investments do not push up electricity prices, as has happened in other jurisdictions. RenewEconomy noted that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had promised to make bring-your-own renewables a legal obligation, but later promised carve-outs for states that want gas to power the sector. The SEC warns those carve-outs for Queensland would flow through to prices across the rest of the National Energy Market.

At the end of June, AEMO had 17 data centre projects in its connection queue totalling 9 GW, of which five projects (1.4 GW) were being implemented. RenewEconomy noted the Carbon Zero Initiative's view that data centres appear to reserve twice the capacity they actually use, and that Transgrid says Western Sydney has no room left for new connections.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **RenewEconomy** · Letting data centres build first, catch up on renewables later could add \$40 billion to power bills
- 2 **Smart Energy Council** · Dirty Data: The \$40 Billion AI Power Bill From Fossil Fuel

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

PDG linked to A\$1b, 100MW Campbelltown data centre in Sydney's southwest

Singapore-based Princeton Digital Group appears to be the client for a proposed 100MW data centre in Campbelltown, where NSW planning papers describe investment above A\$1 billion. It would be PDG's first facility in Australia.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 3 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A new international operator seeking land, power and water in Sydney adds to competition in one of the region's most contested data centre corridors, and Sydney Water's differing responses on Genesis and Project Mars show how utility capacity is shaping which projects advance.

Planning documents lodged with the New South Wales government tie Princeton Digital Group (PDG) to a proposed A\$1 billion data centre in Sydney's southwest. Drawings prepared by AECOM and filed with a request for state environmental assessment requirements label a 100-megawatt project at 192 Narellan Road, Campbelltown, as "PDG Project Genesis" and list PDG as the client. If built, it would be the Singapore operator's first step into the Australian market.

The planning portal application is lodged by Sydney residential developer Morehuman Property Group, which engaged Patch Planning to write the scoping report. Neither PDG nor Morehuman answered a request for comment. Separately, an ACCC filing dated 30 March shows Princeton Digital Group Australia is buying vacant Campbelltown land from MH Property No. 1 to build, own and run a data centre, and the regulator granted a waiver on 21 April.

The 12.71-hectare site sits within the Maryfields Estate, which has been rezoned for business park, housing and seniors living. The scoping report sets out two buildings built in stages: one with two storeys at 26 metres and another with three storeys at 30 metres. That exceeds the 15-metre height cap in the local environmental plan, and the developer says the added height is needed to hide rooftop plant such as chillers, cooling towers and generator flues behind acoustic screening. A planning proposal lodged with Campbelltown City Council asks for the limit to be lifted to 30 metres.

The report says Endeavour Energy made a connection offer in December 2025 covering three stages of supply, built around a 66-kilovolt switching station on the site that the developer would fund. Sydney Water has agreed in principle to provide interim potable water, moving to fully recycled cooling water by late 2031. By contrast, Sydney Water told the department in April that it could not back Goodman's Project Mars without further study of the local supply zone, and Goodman withdrew its A\$798 million application for the 81MW facility in September after heavy resident opposition.

Project Genesis would depend on 78 emergency generators, bulk diesel storage and lithium-ion batteries, although the report gives no figure for diesel held on site. It projects 900 to 1,100 ongoing jobs at full build-out, and says the project answers contracted demand from cloud providers, government agencies and enterprises, none of which are named. A site context map places the facility near Bethlehem Monastery, residential and seniors living zones, a proposed hotel, Western Sydney University and TAFE.

PDG chairman and chief executive Rangu Salgame told Mingtiandi the company is assessing sites in Sydney and Melbourne after hiring Scott Thomas as general manager, but he did not say which Sydney site. Salgame said existing customers urged PDG to expand into Australia and South Korea. PDG, backed by Warburg Pincus, Mubadala and Stonepeak, reports more than 1.8 gigawatts of capacity across eight Asia Pacific markets.

The assessment-requirements request is the opening stage of the state process, after which an environmental impact statement doubles as the development application and goes on public exhibition. NSW released a Data Centre Policy Framework in August with a 75-day assessment target for qualifying projects, and National Cabinet endorsed mandatory national standards on 26 August, with the Commonwealth committing to legislate in early 2027. IDCNOVA reported that approval is unlikely before those standards arrive.

REPORTING FROM

1 IDCNOVA · Singapore's PDG Plans A\$1B Sydney Data Centre in Australia Debut

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

Adelaide Hills farmers oppose 1200MW Quantum DC data centre at Tungkillo

Quantum DC is proposing a 1200-megawatt data centre at Tungkillo, east of Adelaide, and local farmers object to both the scale and the 15-day public comment window under the state's Essential Infrastructure process.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The dispute shows a large data centre proposal with gas generation drawing local resistance over water, land and the length of the public comment period.

Farmers and residents in the Adelaide Hills are mounting opposition to a multibillion-dollar data centre planned for Tungkillo, east of Adelaide. The developer, Quantum DC, wants a 1200-megawatt facility on land that has been used for farming and grazing.

The developer's website describes a 220-hectare site, with buildings and equipment occupying about 120 hectares. The balance would stay under grazing. Plans also take in electricity substations and gas-fired generators alongside the data halls. Project documents put construction water needs at 150 million to 250 million litres, then roughly 20 million litres each year in operation.

Residents say a local newspaper was how they found out about the plan, and they want it examined at the most rigorous level of public review. Much of the objection targets the approval route, because Quantum DC is seeking to use the state's Essential Infrastructure assessment process, which allows 15 days for public submissions. Farmer Matt Loder said the community wanted "Not a fast-track, no special favours, no shortcuts".

Resident Magdalene Teghe told 7NEWS the site would be one of the largest on the planet. She said the effect on local farmers and livestock, including pollinators, sheep and cattle, could be "detrimental". Farmer Maurice Collins fears the area's natural environment, including its birdsong, will be lost.

Locals have started a petition ahead of consultation sessions scheduled for the week of the report.

In a statement, Quantum DC said the site is close to two approved energy projects, and that environmental and heritage studies are under way to limit impacts. The company added that parts of the property will remain grazing

land and that work on the site's suitability continues.

REPORTING FROM

1 **7NEWS** · Adelaide Hills farmers fear mega data centre could destroy rural landscape

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

DATA CENTRES 4 OF 9

NextDC to replace chair and cut board fees after M3 delay and guidance downgrade

NextDC chairman Douglas Flynn will leave once a successor is in place and CEO Craig Scroggie will give up his FY27 incentives, as the operator answers investor anger over the M3 Melbourne delay and lower FY27 guidance.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The case shows how a grid connection delay at one Melbourne data centre can flow through to guidance, the share price and board composition at a listed operator.

NextDC has set out a package of governance changes before its AGM on 20 November, after investors reacted badly to the delayed M3 Melbourne project and a cut to FY27 earnings guidance. Chairman Douglas Flynn will depart after the board names a replacement and a brief handover is finished, the ASX-listed company said. Director Stuart Davis plans to retire when the renewal process concludes and new directors have joined.

Spencer Stuart, the executive search firm, has had its brief widened to cover a new chair as well as one more independent non-executive director. The board wants candidates with backgrounds in data centres, energy, infrastructure development and capital management, given the scale of its planned capital spending. If suitable people are found, it expects to appoint both directors in the first quarter of calendar 2027.

NextDC has dropped its plan to lift the maximum total pay pool for non-executive directors. Sitting directors have agreed to an immediate voluntary 10 per cent reduction in their fees, and Scroggie will forgo both his FY27 short-term and long-term incentive opportunities.

Flynn acknowledged investor frustration over the revised outlook and the share price. He said the board and management were focused on "minimising the impact of the M3 Melbourne power delay and rebuilding the confidence of investors and other stakeholders".

NextDC recently disclosed that M3 is late because network operator Jemena partly halted construction, citing "community and stakeholder opposition". The affected work is Jemena's 66kV line augmentation, parts of which were suspended in September, and Jemena has formally advised NextDC it does not expect to restart until February 2027. NextDC is also waiting longer than anticipated for a ruling on its planning permit for stages six and seven.

Updated FY27 guidance leaves out M3 contracts, and net revenue previously forecast at \$615 million to \$640 million is now between \$475 million and \$500 million.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ARN** · NextDC unveils board renewal measures following revised FY27 guidance

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

AI INFRASTRUCTURE 5 OF 9

Megaport weighs A\$827 million raising to fund Nvidia GPU pool

Megaport is reportedly considering a fully underwritten A\$827 million entitlement offer, with about A\$350 million earmarked for a distributed Nvidia GPU pool. It has reportedly secured four AI-infrastructure contracts worth A\$458.9 million.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A connectivity provider adding GPU assets, backed by a raising of this size, shows AI spending reaching Australian interconnection players as well as data-centre operators, and puts hardware and utilisation risk on a business built on a virtual network model.

Megaport is reportedly considering an A\$827 million entitlement offer, fully underwritten, to finance a shift from linking clouds and data centres to supplying the computing power that AI workloads need. The company has proposed putting about A\$350 million into a distributed pool of Nvidia GPUs.

The Australian Financial Review reported that the plan involves sizeable US contracts in AI infrastructure, and that Megaport has reportedly signed four of them, together worth A\$458.9 million.

Should it go ahead, the raising would rank among the biggest follow-on equity offerings in Australia in 2026. NextDC recently finished an A\$1.1 billion raise, which puts Megaport's reported figure just below it. Megaport's shares have gained roughly a third this year and the company is valued at \$3.8 billion.

Megaport operates a software-defined network that reaches more than 1,100 data centres, and customers use it to join cloud services, facilities and private infrastructure. It now wants to site distributed GPU capacity near those connected environments. A GPU pool tied to the virtual network would give customers AI capacity at several locations, and could spare them from buying hardware and organising connectivity separately. The design is also intended to send more traffic over Megaport's current infrastructure.

The strategy brings risks that sit outside the core connectivity business. Nvidia accelerators are costly and power-hungry, and they can leave an owner exposed if demand, pricing or hardware generations move faster than expected. Megaport would need to handle procurement, deployment and utilisation while keeping its existing network reliable. Other variables include depreciation, supply dependencies, limits on energy availability and uncertain resale values for specialised parts. Headline contract values point to early demand but say nothing about when revenue arrives, how much capital delivery needs or what the GPUs will eventually return.

Gartner forecasts global data-centre systems spending of \$653.4 billion in 2026, up 31.7 per cent year on year, with server spending expected to climb 36.9 per cent on AI demand. Training and inference workloads shift large datasets between storage, GPU clusters and cloud regions, and 400G and 800G Ethernet is becoming standard. The TMC Insight analysis adds that remaining purely a connectivity provider carries strategic risk as value moves toward integrated AI infrastructure.

The raising would show whether investors regard distributed GPU capacity as a natural extension of the platform or as a capital-heavy break from the model that built its valuation.

REPORTING FROM

1 **TMC Insight** · Megaport Eyes A\$827 Million for Nvidia GPU Expansion

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

Telstra adds select apps to its Starlink-backed Satellite to Mobile service

Telstra has widened its Satellite to Mobile service beyond text messaging, letting eligible customers use selected messaging, navigation, weather and fitness apps outside mobile coverage. The feature was developed with Starlink and works on a limited list of devices.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The update widens what satellite-to-mobile coverage can be used for in regional and remote Australia, from basic texts to navigation, weather and messaging apps, though it remains limited to eligible plans and a short list of devices.

Telstra has announced that eligible customers can now run a range of chosen apps over its Satellite to Mobile service, which until now was largely about text messaging. The capability was built with Starlink and applies when a customer is beyond the reach of Telstra's mobile network and linked via satellite.

The supported list currently spans navigation, messaging, weather and fitness. Navigation covers Apple Maps and Google Maps. Messaging covers WhatsApp, iMessage, Facebook Messenger and Signal. Weather covers Apple Weather, Google Weather and AccuWeather. Google Fitness and the My Telstra App are also included.

Access depends on four conditions: the customer holds an eligible Telstra plan, owns a compatible handset, is out of Telstra mobile coverage, and has an unobstructed view of the sky. At present the supported handsets are the iPhone 13 and later models plus the Samsung Galaxy S26 family, and Telstra expects to add more devices over time.

The source describes the service as likely to suit people travelling, working or exploring in regional and remote areas, who could get directions, weather and messaging when normal coverage is missing. Telstra advises that satellite connectivity is no substitute for mobile coverage or emergency communications and should not be relied on in an emergency.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Regional Development Australia - Riverina NSW** · Telstra Expands Satellite-to-Mobile Connectivity with Select App ...

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

ASD warns of more unplanned outages as AI-enabled cyber threats rise

The Australian Signals Directorate says incidents it responded to rose 20 per cent in 2025-26 and tells organisations to put system security ahead of availability while adopting AI defences.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

For carriers, data-centre operators and other critical infrastructure owners, ASD is signalling that security-driven downtime is acceptable and that ageing systems are a priority target. The agency also says leadership, not just technical staff, carries responsibility for cyber risk.

Australians should expect more basic and important online services to drop out without warning, the Australian Signals Directorate has said, arguing that "system security must be prioritised over system availability". The message is in ASD's annual cyber threat report, which says foreign governments, criminals and hackers are turning to AI to collect intelligence, disrupt critical infrastructure and steal money.

ASD dealt with 1,500 cybersecurity incidents in 2025-26, a rise of 20 per cent on the year before, the report says. It also alerted outside organisations, among them businesses, governments and critical infrastructure operators, to more than 4,400 potential malicious cyber incidents, an increase of 80 per cent in a year. The agency expects AI to speed up these dangers.

Networks in government and the private sector faced persistent attempts at intrusion by state-backed actors last year, ASD said. It suggested that some of those actors in the Indo-Pacific may be positioning for possible future conflicts. Greater access to AI brings opportunities, the agency said, but also helps criminals and state actors find weaknesses and strike faster and more effectively. ASD said every network owner now faces higher threat levels and that cybersecurity has become a "core business risk and leadership responsibility" rather than only a technical issue.

ASD director general Abigail Bradshaw said defenders need to use AI as well. "We need AI tools to help automate our defences to stay ahead of AI-enabled attackers," Bradshaw said. According to the report, building AI into security work can help spot weaknesses or suspicious behaviour and improve response. Bradshaw has previously said ASD has access to Anthropic's Mythos model, which the company said it could not release publicly because it can identify unknown flaws in IT systems. Australian government agencies consider access

to such frontier models, and working with leading AI labs, critical to strengthening cybersecurity.

Bradshaw said legacy technology, such as outdated systems or devices their makers no longer update, is among the biggest risks and most attractive targets for hackers. ASD called on Australia to modernise its technology and cyber capabilities, and urged organisations to patch systems, seek its help and report suspicious incidents. Bradshaw and Defence Minister Richard Marles said organisations should rank the security of systems above keeping them running, which could mean more services are pulled offline while being secured. The report follows newly found vulnerabilities in PHP, which underpins most websites, that sent governments and businesses scrambling to fix the problem.

REPORTING FROM

1 **the Guardian** · Australians should prepare for online services to go down unexpectedly as threats rise, cyber agency warns | AI (artificial intelligence)

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

POLICY & REGULATION 8 OF 9

PHP2Shell flaws force cyber.gov.au and other government sites offline

Two critical PHP bugs prompted Australia's cyber security agency and several overseas government bodies to pull websites after patches were released on 21 October 2026. The disclosure was disrupted by a leak and an early release by Chainguard.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The episode shows how much Australian government web infrastructure rests on one widely used language, with GovCMS among the affected platforms, and that agencies chose to take sites offline while patching.

The website of Australia's cyber security agency, cyber.gov.au, went offline after the disclosure of PHP2Shell, a pair of critical vulnerabilities in PHP. Government sites in France, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands were also taken down, as was the Port of Rotterdam. W3Techs says PHP underpins roughly 70 per cent of sites where it can identify the server-side language, and the affected software includes GovCMS, the Drupal platform behind much of Australia's federal web presence.

The flaws are tracked as CVE-2026-109618 and CVE-2026-109619, and each scores 9.2 under CVSS v4.0, although watchTower scored them 10. One involves memory corruption when a request exceeds PHP's memory limit, the other involves a worker reusing stale state after memory has been freed. Together they allow remote code execution without authentication, and can expose server memory containing credentials. CrowdStrike says it confirmed that one anonymous POST request was enough to make an Apache mod_php worker start a shell. Patched releases are PHP 8.5.12, 8.4.27, 8.3.36 and 8.2.35, published on 21 October, while the PHP security team has issued limited backports for some older branches that are no longer supported.

The disclosure had been planned for 22 October but unravelled. The CVE numbers leaked on 20 October, so PHP moved its release forward a day. Calif then accidentally posted a video of its exploits, and Chainguard published patched container images more than six hours ahead of schedule on 21 October. The PHP Foundation said Chainguard "unilaterally broke the embargo". Chainguard chief executive Dan Lorenc said he decided to release early because exploits were appearing in the wild, in his words: "I made the call to get these out early when exploits hit in the wild." Amazon Threat Intelligence says its honeypots recorded an exploitation attempt on 17 October, and Cloudflare and Patchstack have also reported attacks.

The Australian Signals Directorate's ACSC issued its highest-rated alert on 21 October, saying every PHP version from PHP 5 onwards may be affected and that it knew of no active exploitation at that point. That night cyber.gov.au and other federal sites went dark. A spokesperson for Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke told the ABC that the National Office of Cyber Security was aware of "disruptions to several Australian websites". A second ACSC alert on 22 October confirmed patches were available and urged organisations to apply them and watch PHP applications for suspicious activity.

The database engines themselves are not affected, so MySQL and SQL Server need no patch for these CVEs. But PHP holds database credentials in memory, so an attacker who gains code execution or reads leaked memory can usually read, alter or dump the data behind a site.

OpenAI says its models found the bug, and OpenAI President Greg Brockman said it had sat in PHP for 14 years. Wiz Research found both flaws independently, and Calif used an OpenAI model to find a version in August. The PHP Foundation acknowledged the out-of-memory problem was first spotted in 2024 during a Quarkslab audit, and calls the delay "a structural failure, caused by both the security team's decision process and its lack of resources." Tenable classes PHP2Shell as a Vulnerability of Concern, its highest level.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **iTWire** · PHP2Shell: the 14-year-old bugs that pulled cyber.gov.au and government sites worldwide offline

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.

POLICY & REGULATION 9 OF 9

Simba faces fines or licence loss over alleged intentional spectrum misuse

Singapore's IMDA has issued Simba a show cause notice alleging unauthorised spectrum use that was intentional and approved by senior management, Simba's ASX-listed parent Tuas disclosed on 26 October 2026. Simba has until 16 November to respond.

Best Effort desk · Tue 27 Oct 2026 · 4 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The case shows a regulator treating spectrum-use breaches as potential licence-level matters, with alleged senior management involvement, and it has already cost Simba's parent, an ASX-listed TPG Telecom spinout, a planned consolidation of Singapore's mobile market and a sharp share price fall.

Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) has put six allegations to mobile operator Simba, and the penalties under consideration range from fines to loss of its licence, Simba's parent Tuas told the ASX on Monday 26 October 2026. One allegation is that Simba knowingly used radio frequency bands without authority, with senior management signing off. Tuas shares fell more than 33 per cent at the market open on 26 October, trading at A\$1.21 at 9.50am against a prior close of A\$1.81.

IMDA alleges Simba ran dynamic spectrum sharing at about 133 sites for intermittent periods in 2022 and 2023, which let it carry both 4G and 5G in the 2100MHz band although its authorisation covered 5G only. It also alleges Simba used the 2340MHz to 2360MHz band at about 92 sites, on and off between 2023 and 2026, with no authorisation. Separately, the regulator says Simba installed 5G indoor radio access network equipment at two locations in 2023 ahead of approval, which came on 14 November that year. IMDA further alleges Simba deliberately did not fully comply with an order to produce documents, and it has flagged concerns about the company's governance and compliance culture.

Any fine could be as high as S\$1 million or 10 per cent of the annual turnover of the relevant part of Simba's business, whichever is greater. IMDA is also weighing suspension or cancellation of Simba's spectrum rights or telecommunications licence, a shorter licence period, or extra regulatory obligations. Tuas said IMDA has not concluded whether to act or what form action might take.

Simba has until 16 November to respond, and Tuas said it intends to do so. Tuas said in its filing that "As the matter remains under consideration by the regulator and no findings have been made or confirmed, Tuas does not intend to provide further comment on the matters raised in this announcement". An IMDA spokesperson told AsiaOne that the regulator informed Simba of its findings on 23 October, and said, "As part of due process, IMDA had written to Simba to inform them of IMDA's investigation findings into Simba's use of unauthorised frequency spectrum".

The inquiry became public in May, when IMDA paused its review of Simba's proposed S\$1.43 billion purchase of rival operator M1. Tuas ended the sale and purchase agreement on 22 May. In September, Simba conceded it had used more spectrum than the regulator permitted, with management blaming a mix of hardware and software issues for unauthorised use of the 2300MHz spectrum. Simba began as a spinout of TPG Telecom.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **CNA** · Simba faces possible fines, licence cancellation over allegations of intentional spectrum misuse
- 2 **The Straits Times** · IMDA escalates Simba probe over intentional spectrum misuse
- 3 **AsiaOne** · Simba faces possible fine, licence suspension over alleged unauthorised spectrum misuse, Singapore News
- 4 **Grafa** · Tuas faces regulatory scrutiny over spectrum rules

Written by AI from the reporting above. Quotes, numbers and names were checked against those sources before publication.