

Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Friday 30 October 2026

- NextDC shares have fallen 42 per cent after power delays at its M3 Melbourne data centre forced a deep guidance cut, and Grafa reports it now faces removal from the S&P/ASX 50 Index.
- Elsewhere in data centres, EdgeConneX entered Australia in a 50-50 venture with Stockland, with 450MW of power secured, and coNEXA will spend \$250 million on recycled water for NextDC's S4 Sydney.
- In regulation, ACMA's maximum telco code penalty is set to rise from \$250,000 to \$10 million.

11 stories · 20 min reading · 16 sources · Online at besteffort.au/editions/2026-10-30

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NextDC faces ASX 50 demotion after 42% share plunge over Melbourne power delay

NextDC shares fell 42% after delays to power works at its M3 Melbourne data centre forced a deep guidance cut, and Grafa reports the company now faces removal from the S&P/ASX 50 Index.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 4 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The NextDC case shows that grid connections and local opposition can delay contracted revenue even when customer demand is strong, a risk that could apply to other large Australian data centre developments.

NextDC faces demotion from the S&P/ASX 50 Index after an earnings downgrade that sent its shares down 42% to a nine-year low, Grafa reported on 28 October 2026. Grafa said the fall followed community opposition to 22-metre power poles, which forced the data centre operator to delay expanding its Melbourne facility. The Motley Fool Australia reported that electricity distributor Jemena had suspended work on the infrastructure needed to supply extra power to M3, partly because of opposition from local residents and stakeholders.

Without the additional electricity NextDC cannot deliver all the contracted capacity it expected, pushing revenue and earnings back. Insights put the delay at about A\$140 million of contracted revenue deferred and about A\$3 billion wiped from NextDC's market value. A major capacity increase at M3, which has planned IT capacity of 225MW, is not now expected until 2028. Guidance for FY27 net revenue was lowered to a range of A\$475–500 million, against the earlier A\$615–640 million. Underlying EBITDA guidance fell to A\$245–265 million, down from A\$385–410 million.

The company also paused new developments and land purchases, is reviewing capital spending and is considering selling selected development sites. Grafa reported that NextDC would also consider placing power cables underground to support its balance sheet. Chief executive Craig Scroggie has given up his FY27 bonus opportunities, and the company is reviewing its leadership and governance arrangements, according to Insights.

Grafa said removal from the index could prompt more selling as passive funds adjust their holdings. It added that Genesis Minerals is expected to take NextDC's place in the top 50 if its A\$12.6 billion merger with Vault Minerals proceeds. MST Marquee senior analyst Hasan Tevfik said NextDC's "natural

home is no longer the Australian equity market, where its cost of equity can swing violently". MST Marquee has also flagged NextDC as a potential takeover target.

Morgans takes a different view, upgrading the stock from hold to buy with a \$7.50 price target and calling the shares "incredibly cheap". The broker said the shares were trading at a discount of around 30% to estimated net tangible assets of about \$7.50 a share. NextDC management expects the extra power at M3 to arrive during FY28, and the company confirmed it remains compliant with its debt covenants. The Motley Fool noted that affected contracts contain provisions that could let customers claim compensation or terminate in certain circumstances.

The episode has sharpened scrutiny of community acceptance for data centres more broadly. The Australian News reported that planned data centres by Goodman Group and NextDC were stopped in Sydney and Melbourne within two months after fierce community opposition. AirTrunk vice president of market expansion Tom Mackellar said assessing the impact on the local community and obtaining social licence is "absolutely a requirement" when assessing future development.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **Insights** · Australia's AI boom just hit a power bottleneck — what does NextDC's 42% crash mean for data-centre stocks?
- 2 **The Motley Fool Australia** · Are NextDC shares 'incredibly cheap' after the sell-off?
- 3 **The Australian News** · Data centre social licence is essential for AI build out, says AirTrunk | The Business
- 4 **Grafa** · NextDC faces potential ASX 50 removal

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

EdgeConneX enters Australia with 50-50 Stockland venture and 450MW secured

US-founded operator EdgeConneX has teamed with Stockland in an equal joint venture to build hyperscale data centre campuses in Sydney and Melbourne, with 450MW of power secured. It has named Chris Maher to run its Australian business.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Another global hyperscale developer is committing to Sydney and Melbourne with power already secured, in a market where electricity access is a main constraint on new data centre builds.

EdgeConneX has moved into Australia through a joint venture with Stockland, aiming to build data centre campuses in Sydney and Melbourne. Each partner holds half of the venture, which will develop, own and run a portfolio of hyperscale sites nationally. Its first pipeline sits in the two biggest cities, and 450MW of power has already been secured. The partners are pursuing further power applications and planning work beyond that capacity.

Stockland supplies land, development and project management expertise, while EdgeConneX adds experience building facilities for large content, cloud and AI customers. Justin Louis, Stockland's Chief Investment Officer, said the tie-up joined local development capability with EdgeConneX's international hyperscale and AI Factory experience. He said the partners were building a platform for "the responsible growth of Australia's digital economy".

EdgeConneX has appointed Chris Maher as Managing Director for Australia, to lead local business and market development. Maher brings more than 20 years in digital infrastructure, asset management and finance across Asia Pacific and the United States. Maher said, "Australia has a significant opportunity to become a leading market for digital infrastructure and AI".

Kelvin Fong, Managing Director for Asia Pacific at EdgeConneX, said, "Australia is one of the fastest-growing infrastructure hubs in the region". TelcoNews described the move as part of a wider Asia Pacific push as operators compete for land and electricity in major metropolitan markets. It added that power access has become a key constraint on new builds as AI drives bigger campuses and higher densities.

EdgeConneX has also become a principal member of Data Centres Australia, an industry body with more than 100 member organisations. The body cited its Economic Impact report, which put the potential gain from winning AI export business at up to \$4.1 billion a year in extra activity by 2030, along with as many as 17,120 more jobs. EdgeConneX's backer is EQT Infrastructure, part of the EQT investment group.

REPORTING FROM

1 **TelcoNews Australia** · EdgeConneX enters Australia with Stockland data venture

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

DATA CENTRES 3 OF 11

coNEXA to spend \$250m on recycled water supply for NextDC's S4 Sydney

coNEXA will invest \$250 million to extend its AquaNet network so NextDC's S4 Sydney data centre can take up to 16 million litres a day of recycled water. Construction begins in November, with supply due in late 2027.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The project puts a privately funded water network behind a large Sydney data centre, and coNEXA argues that such supply can reduce pressure on drinking water and wastewater systems and lower electricity demand for cooling. It also feeds coNEXA's case to the NSW inquiry that water infrastructure should be planned with data centres to give investors certainty over supply and timing.

coNEXA, a water infrastructure company, will put \$250 million into extending AquaNet in Western Sydney, connecting its Fairfield recycled water plant with NextDC's S4 Sydney facility at Horsley Park. The pipeline is meant to deliver up to 16 million litres of recycled water daily. Construction is slated for November and the first water is expected in late 2027. coNEXA said the project has IPART approval and that the money will come entirely from private sources.

coNEXA said it believes the arrangement is the largest recycled water supply to a data centre in Australia. By its account, up to 5.8 billion litres a year that would otherwise be released to the ocean would be reused, and wastewater from up to 35,000 homes' worth of output would be kept out of a sewerage

network under strain.

NextDC says the S4 Sydney campus is designed for up to 365MW of IT capacity and is aiming for Tier IV certification. The operator said using recycled water would suit cooling designs with lower power needs. It put the design power usage effectiveness at 1.125 at full IT load, which it says is more than 25 per cent below the 2026 global average reported by the Uptime Institute. NextDC chief engineering and design officer Jeff Van Zetten said that cooling S4 Sydney with AquaNet water "puts that responsibility into operation".

NSW Minister for Water Rose Jackson said the deal was "exactly the type of project we envisioned when we released the NSW Data Centre Guidelines". AquaNet was developed after the Millennium Drought and has supplied recycled water to businesses and industry in Western Sydney since 2011. coNEXA told the NSW Legislative Council's data centre inquiry that the network can provide up to 25 million litres a day for industrial uses.

In that submission coNEXA argued that water planning belongs inside data centre development strategies, not alongside them as a separate matter. It noted that State Significant Development approvals often mention recycled water for cooling, yet there is currently "little to no" enabling infrastructure to deliver it at scale. It asked the NSW Government to push regulated utilities to work with licensed private water providers and to begin a longer-term framework for that cooperation.

coNEXA CEO Kurt Dahl said NextDC's commitment "unlocks the scale and demand to build the first stage of a network that will serve more of Western Sydney industry and the community over time". coNEXA said other industrial users and local councils could also benefit, for example through irrigation of public open spaces during dry weather and water restrictions. It said the project would support up to 200 construction jobs plus ongoing roles.

REPORTING FROM

1 **W.Media** · coNEXA to invest AU\$250m in recycled water network to supply NextDC's S4 Sydney

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

Sharon AI plans AI compute campus on former Albury paper mill site

Nasdaq-listed neocloud Sharon AI is recruiting and seeking investors for an AI compute campus in Albury, New South Wales, to be run through an affiliated new venture, Forbes Australia reported.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A neocloud moving from leasing space in colocation halls towards its own campus would add a new, financing-dependent source of AI capacity in regional New South Wales, at a time when grid delays and community opposition have already hurt an established Australian operator.

Sharon AI is hiring staff and looking for capital for a data centre campus at Albury in regional New South Wales, Forbes Australia reported on 29 October 2026. The company confirmed in September that it had bought a retired paper mill in the city, and job ads published on Tuesday now describe the site as a "next-generation AI compute campus". The ads say Sharon is recruiting "on behalf of an affiliated new venture", so the company may not build the campus itself. It is unclear whether that venture is a spin-off or a company incubated by Sharon, and Sharon declined to comment.

The plan would mark a shift in approach. Sharon has so far secured Nvidia GPUs and installed clusters inside data centres run by operators such as NextDC and Equinix. Forbes said building its own facilities would make it more like Firmus, which wants to build large AI factories. The job ads seek people to run such a facility and also people to help fund it, with the company aiming to raise money from "institutional investors, infrastructure funds, family offices and strategic financing partners."

Sharon reported \$8.8 billion in total contract value as of 6 August, against \$1.93 million in revenue for the three months to 30 June. It has secured US\$2.6 billion in equity and debt financing, and its filings with the US regulator show it plans to spend around \$6 billion on infrastructure, GPUs and other equipment. Its largest investor is Situational Awareness, the investment house run by former OpenAI researcher Leopold Aschenbrenner.

Market conditions have softened. Sharon listed on the Nasdaq at US\$30 a share in February, rose above US\$90 by late June, and has since halved in the past month to US\$25.75. Forbes noted that Firmus tried and failed to list on the ASX, and that CoreWeave has fallen 46 per cent over six months. NextDC fell 40 per cent after delays to its M3 expansion in Melbourne, which it blamed

on Jemena pushing back grid upgrades, and Sharon runs a GPU cluster inside M3.

Sharon is also preparing for local scrutiny, hiring a community lead to protect its reputation, support project approvals and deliver local benefits. In a company post on 28 October, chief operating officer David Burns described the existing model as partner-first co-location that avoids the longest lead items such as substations and transmission lines. He said Sharon has a presence in 12 sites across Australia and New Zealand, 11 of them in Australia, and 120 MW of contracted customer agreements against 212 MW of available capacity with power to site.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **Forbes Australia** · Sharon AI to turn former paper mill into compute campus
- 2 **Sharon AI** · Sharon AI ANZ Energisation: Power Connected, Across Every Site

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 5 OF 11

BSA revenue drops 74% to \$4.4m in September quarter after nbn contract ends

BSA Ltd booked \$4.4 million of revenue and an underlying EBITDA loss of \$0.6 million for the September quarter, with its nbn work gone. It is buying drone firm Eonetics, subject to a shareholder vote planned for 25 November 2026.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The result shows how much BSA depended on nbn work, with replacement revenue not yet at scale and the Eonetics deal pointing to a move into adjacent technology markets. The company's nine-quarter runway estimate assumes the burn rate holds steady.

BSA Ltd (ASX: BSA) said quarterly revenue to 30 September 2026 fell 74 per cent to \$4.4 million, as the end of its nbn contract worked through the business. Underlying EBITDA moved from a \$4.0 million profit in the same quarter a year earlier to a \$0.6 million loss.

The nbn contract expired on 30 September 2025, and BSA has yet to replace the revenue it generated. Revenue a year earlier was \$17.1 million. BSA said that quarter had been boosted by one-off transition out payments from nbn and other projects, which it described as "significantly supported by non-recurring transition out payments received from nbn and other projects". Reported EBITDA was a \$1.7 million loss, with \$1.0 million of that made up of non-cash share-based payments.

Operating cash outflow was \$1.7 million, and net cash at the end of September stood at \$14.6 million, compared with \$16.4 million at the end of June. BSA has drawn no external borrowings. Customer receipts were \$4.0 million, against \$5.8 million paid to suppliers and staff. The outflow was well below the \$4.7 million of a year earlier, a figure that included \$5.6 million of redundancy-related payments.

The Appendix 4C puts estimated funding at nine quarters at the current burn rate, using available funding of \$15.4 million that counts unused facilities. BSA holds a \$2.1 million bank guarantee facility, with \$1.7 million used at quarter end; it needs 25 per cent cash backing, which locks up \$0.4 million.

BSA has entered a binding agreement to buy 100 per cent of drone technology business Eonetics Pty Ltd, announced on 21 October. The purchase is meant to extend BSA into infrastructure inspection, surveillance and connectivity technology. Completion still hinges on legal due diligence, shareholder and regulatory approvals and other customary conditions, and a shareholder meeting is planned for 25 November 2026.

Chief executive Sasho Kacevski called the quarter a transitional period and said results were affected by "the lower revenue base and timing of new work". He said BSA's priority was to "convert the current pipeline into sustainable revenue and improved earnings".

REPORTING FROM

1 **The Market Floor** · BSA Ltd quarterly reveals 74% revenue collapse as nbn contract void bites

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

ACMA gets direct code enforcement and a \$10 million penalty ceiling for telcos

Reforms outlined on 15 October 2026 let ACMA act on breaches of registered telco codes without a prior compliance order, with the maximum penalty rising from \$250,000 to \$10 million, according to ACCAN. A registration scheme could also bar providers with serious compliance failures from the market.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Direct enforcement of codes, a higher penalty ceiling and a possible market-exclusion scheme give ACMA faster and heavier tools against telcos. The draft rules on sales incentives and cancellations would reach into how providers run sales, though they remain proposals.

Australia has outlined reforms, dated 15 October 2026, that make registered telecommunications industry codes directly enforceable. The Australian Communications and Media Authority can now act on a breach without first directing the provider to comply. ACCAN, the consumer advocacy group, said the top penalty for breaching industry codes and standards climbs from \$250,000 to \$10 million.

The package also sets up a registration scheme that would let ACMA shut providers with serious compliance failures out of the market. The regulator calls this a last resort, and details of how it will work are due before the scheme begins.

The changes arrive after ACMA's enforcement action against Telstra, announced on 3 September. According to the regulator, frontline staff did not follow identity-verification procedures in 15 unauthorised SIM swaps between January and October 2025. Customers reported fraud losses of at least \$39,500 in total, and Telstra paid a penalty of \$277,200. Telstra also gave court-enforceable commitments to strengthen fraud prevention and train staff who deal with customers. Investigators found 13 cases where customers who had raised concerns, or who Telstra knew were at risk, did not get extra protections. That case fell under existing mobile-fraud rules and is separate from the code enforcement changes.

On 29 September ACMA opened consultation on a standard to replace the consumer code it rejected in March. ACCAN and the Fair Call Coalition welcomed that rejection, arguing the industry-led approach had not tackled harmful sales practices and weak credit assessments. The draft standard would

require responsible selling and set rules on sales incentives and performance payments. It also seeks simple, timely cancellations and informed consent before services are transferred. Disconnecting customers who struggle to pay would be a last resort, after reasonable steps to help with payment difficulties or financial-hardship assistance. The measures are proposals, and submissions close on 10 November 2026.

ACMA data published on 7 October counted 748,501 complaints to telecom providers in 2025-26, a fall of 10.8 per cent on the prior year. Average resolution time improved from 5.9 days to 5.4 days. The proportion of complaints escalated to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman rose from 6.6 per cent to 6.9 per cent. With fewer complaints overall, that does not establish more escalations in total, but it indicates a slightly bigger share needed outside help. The figures predate the October reforms, so they are a baseline rather than proof the new powers work.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **The Jerusalem Post | JPost.com** · Australia's consumer protection push goes beyond fines
- 2 **Zion pulse** · Australia cracks down on telecom giants: fines up to AUD 10...

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

FIBRE, SUBSEA & INTERCONNECT 7 OF 11

FibreconX chief urges shared fibre planning as AI drives data centre demand

FibreconX CEO Mark Rafferty told the CommsDay Wholesale Congress that fibre, not buildings, may become the bottleneck for data centre growth, and called for shared builds and earlier coordination.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

If Rafferty's account holds, fibre lead times and approvals could shape where and how fast AI-ready data centre capacity comes online in Australia, which puts pressure on carriers, wholesalers and developers to coordinate builds earlier.

FibreconX founder and chief executive Mark Rafferty has asked Australian carriers, data centre developers and infrastructure players to plan fibre jointly for AI-driven growth, saying the real limit may be the network behind the data centres. Speaking at the CommsDay Wholesale Congress, he said public debate about AI infrastructure centres on facilities, energy and site selection, and gives

little weight to the fibre that connects sites. Rafferty said "no one's talking about the underlying architecture that is going to make all of this ecosystem work".

He argued that much of Australia's fibre was designed for an earlier market. In his description, existing routes are a patchwork, built through one incumbent's ducts and through networks pieced together by acquisition over decades, and some assets are now between 20 and 35 years old.

Rafferty said Australian data centre capacity is expected to double by 2030, and that FibreconX is seeing 17 per cent year-on-year growth in dark fibre adoption as customers seek direct control over capacity. He said AI deployment here is still at an early stage because major training workloads have not fully arrived, so current demand may understate what is coming. "Some of the biggest hyperscalers are yet to activate their training workloads here," Rafferty said, adding that demand could double again once they do.

Customers are asking for several physically separate fibre paths between facilities and much more capacity than before, he said, and some want hundreds of thousands of dark fibres between campuses. He also pointed to new projects moving outside traditional metropolitan zones while still needing low-latency, resilient links. That is hard to plan for, he said, because building fibre takes long lead times, capital and approvals.

Instead of duplicating infrastructure wherever demand appears, Rafferty said operators, wholesalers and developers should consider shared builds and earlier coordination as a way to contain costs. "If we're going to build somewhere, we want to share it with people who are interested," Rafferty said. He said fibre belongs in data centre planning from the outset rather than after construction decisions are made.

FibreconX said it has operated a wholesale-only, open-access dark fibre network across Sydney and Melbourne since 2019. The company said it delivers 14,000 dark fibres into each connected data centre, where the previous norm was 72 to 288. It also said it has close to 300,000 pre-built, tested fibres in its Xchange footprint in the two cities, plus more than 500,000 pre-tested and pre-provisioned fibres across its data centre footprint.

REPORTING FROM

1 **TelcoNews Australia** · FibreconX chief calls for shared fibre planning for AI

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

Spacetalk burns \$3.8m in quarter as TPG migration and UK telco talks advance

Spacetalk used \$3.8 million of operating cash in the September quarter and ended with \$5.2 million, enough for about 1.4 quarters at that rate. It is moving subscribers onto TPG Telecom's network and has signed a non-binding MOU with an unnamed UK operator.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The results show a small wearables operator relying on a wholesale MVNO arrangement with TPG and a software deal with Vodafone Australia to reshape its revenue, while its funding runway remains short.

Spacetalk (ASX: SPA) used \$3.8 million of operating cash in the September quarter as it moved its network onto TPG Telecom and began talks with a UK telecommunications operator. The company said its funding covers 1.4 quarters at that burn rate, short of the two-quarter level that brings extra disclosure obligations under ASX listing rules. Mobile subscribers grew 20 per cent year-on-year to 61,400, yet revenue dropped 32 per cent to \$3.1 million because supply chain constraints hurt device sales and the legacy schools business kept shrinking.

Cash at quarter-end was \$5.2 million, against \$879,000 at the end of June, following a \$10 million placement announced in August at 7.5 cents per share. The \$3.6 million debt facility is fully drawn at 9.5 per cent, matures on 30 June 2027 and carries a covenant requiring at least \$750,000 in cash at all times. Spacetalk said it expects operating outflows to ease as savings take effect and new revenue streams start, although timing depends on execution and customer adoption.

Recurring revenue accounted for 79 per cent of the total, up from 62 per cent in the prior corresponding period. Mobile revenue increased 4 per cent to \$2.0 million, and mobile annual recurring revenue rose 4 per cent to \$8.1 million, or 84 per cent of total ARR. Device revenue fell 62 per cent to \$648,000, which the company put down to component shortages, including printed circuit boards, driven by demand from AI and data centre infrastructure. Total annual recurring revenue declined 15 per cent to \$9.7 million, mainly because of the schools wind-down and weaker app revenue.

The TPG Telecom agreements announced in July remain central to the company's strategy. Under the wholesale MVNO deal, Spacetalk resells TPG network capacity, and the company said the economics improve on its previous

network arrangement. A separate agreement has Vodafone Australia launching a co-branded family safety app powered by Spacetalk's platform, with contracted minimum recurring software fees from the first year. Management expects those fees to more than replace schools revenue in that period, though timing depends on contractual commencement and delivery of the app.

Spacetalk also disclosed a non-binding memorandum of understanding with an unnamed UK-based telecommunications operator to explore rolling out its app and platform to the operator's mobile subscribers. Talks are moving toward a monetisation model. The company said the MOU "represents a further opportunity to extend the Company's software-led B2B distribution model internationally, building on the commercial framework established through its Vodafone Australia agreement".

Management has identified annualised cash cost savings of about \$3.5 million, to be implemented progressively across the financial year. Operating payments, excluding inventory and service enabling costs, were \$4.7 million, up from \$4.3 million a year earlier. Spacetalk plans to leave the schools business in the December quarter as Western Australian schools move to a government platform. A new supplier agreement covers three device variants, the first due in the December quarter, which the company said should lift device gross margins by about 10 percentage points or more. In the second half of the financial year it intends to trial Sibyl, a health prediction and fall detection product built with UNSW and NeuRA.

REPORTING FROM

- 1 **The Market Floor** · Spacetalk burns \$3.8 million in quarter as TPG migration and UK telco talks adva

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

Gosnells backs tighter data centre planning rules near homes

The City of Gosnells in Perth voted unanimously on 13 October to advance a planning scheme amendment and draft policy for data centres. They would be a discretionary use on General Industry land, with noise, water and power tests. CDC's Maddington facility is exempt.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The proposal shows a local government writing data-centre-specific planning rules after a facility was approved as a warehouse, adding noise, water and power tests for developers seeking sites near residential land.

Gosnells councillors were unanimous on 13 October in backing a package of planning changes that would put data centres proposed close to housing under greater scrutiny, the Examiner reported. The package sets out where such facilities could be located and how their noise, water use and electricity demand would be judged. The vote follows approval of a CDC data centre now going up in Maddington, which was assessed as a warehouse under the current planning framework.

Mayor Teresa Lynes said the present framework has nothing aimed specifically at data centres. She said that given community concerns, the City believes "planning standards are required".

Council officers had proposed that data centres be a permitted use in General Industry zones, but councillors toughened that position. The use would instead be discretionary, so a site's suitability can be weighed before any approval. Lynes put forward the amendment because parts of the General Industry land sit near residential areas. The draft policy was also changed to require consideration of compatibility with sensitive land uses within 500 metres of a proposed site, though the wording council adopted does not ban data centres inside that radius. Lynes said the policy leans towards General Industry land that is separated from housing, including areas in Maddington and Kenwick.

In Light Industry and Service Commercial zones, data centres would need assessment and public advertising. They would be banned in residential, rural, centre and mixed-use zones, and separate provisions would cover Urban Development and Industrial Development zones. Applicants would have to provide acoustic assessments covering cooling equipment, transformers and generator testing. They would also need to show how they would limit water use and environmental impacts, and that electricity, water and other

infrastructure could serve the project.

Lynes said the policy would not be retrospective and would leave the Maddington facility under construction untouched. Any later expansion or alteration of the CDC development would need a fresh development application, judged against whatever framework and policies apply when it is lodged, she said.

The rules remain unfinished. Once State Government clearance arrives, the City intends to advertise the scheme amendment and draft policy together for 42 days of public comment. Lynes said approval to advertise was likely in early 2027.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Examiner Newspapers** · New data centre rules put homes in focus

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

AI INFRASTRUCTURE 10 OF 11

CoreWeave plans petabit-scale backbone with new PoP in Australia

CoreWeave announced on 27 October 2026 a wider Global AI Network built as a petabit-scale backbone, with new points of presence in seven markets including Australia. Work starts in the fourth quarter of 2026, with a full intercontinental loop targeted for mid-2027.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A CoreWeave PoP in Australia would connect the country to a global GPU-cloud backbone, and the plan for redundant terrestrial and subsea routes bears on capacity and resilience for Asia Pacific links.

GPU cloud operator CoreWeave is growing its Global AI Network into a backbone of petabit scale, tying together AI compute sites in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific. The plan, announced on 27 October, puts new points of presence in seven further markets, on top of the network it already runs in North America and Europe. Those markets are the United Arab Emirates, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, South Korea and Japan.

Construction starts in the fourth quarter of 2026, and CoreWeave aims to close the intercontinental loop by mid-2027.

At each point of presence the design calls for several 400 Gbps links, MACsec encryption done in hardware, and redundant fibre paths over land and under the sea. Every PoP is meant to reach at least two other sites across four physically separate paths, while each region is to be dual-homed to a pair of PoPs. Converge Digest's analysis said the arrangement is meant to lessen reliance on any one transport route, whether terrestrial or subsea. The IEEE 802.1AE standard is intended to protect traffic in transit without the processing burden of software-based encryption.

CoreWeave said the backbone will move big AI datasets, model checkpoints and inference workloads among GPU clusters in different regions. Inside a facility, its networking architecture supports clusters of up to 128,000 GPUs; the global backbone covers traffic between sites. Converge Digest pointed out that the petabit figure refers to total backbone capacity, not the speed of any single 400 Gbps link, and that CoreWeave has not released enough per-route data to work out overall throughput.

In a separate update, CoreWeave said most of the 22.5 MW of IT capacity planned at atNorth's DEN01 data centre in Copenhagen is now online, running NVIDIA Blackwell systems and Quantum-X800 InfiniBand.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Converge Digest** · CoreWeave Expands AI Backbone with 400G and MACsec

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

WORLD 11 OF 11

GSMA wins US\$1.2m NOAA subaward for cell broadcast alerts in nine Pacific nations

The GSMA has secured a US\$1.2 million subaward from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to bring mobile cell broadcast warnings to nine Pacific Island countries.

Best Effort desk · Fri 30 Oct 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

For Pacific carriers and regulators, the funding links mobile networks more tightly to national disaster warning and stresses policy and coordination between authorities and operators as well as technology.

The mobile industry body GSMA said it has won a US\$1.2 million subaward from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve mobile-based early warning in nine Pacific Island countries. Developing Telecoms reported that the money covers cell broadcast deployments in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The aim is to turn cell broadcast from a technical possibility into a working public warning channel in those countries.

Cell broadcast lets authorised agencies push an emergency alert to every compatible handset in a defined area at once. Messages can reach many people within seconds and avoid the congestion that can slow calls and texts during an emergency. The Pacific faces heavy exposure to cyclones, coastal flooding and other natural hazards, so warning delivery is a central issue for governments and communications providers.

The GSMA will use its Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation programme to work with mobile operators, national disaster management authorities, regulators and other local partners. The work covers technical readiness and also the procedures for issuing warnings, including who has responsibility for authorising and sending alerts. The GSMA said it advocates building mobile alerts into national warning systems alongside radio, television and community channels, so people with differing connectivity and communication needs are reached.

The GSMA will head the cell broadcast component of the Pacific Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Communication & Tools Project. It will coordinate closely with the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, working through that body's COMET training and education program. The Weather Ready Pacific Programme has supplied technical support and regional coordination.

The subaward follows work the GSMA started in 2025 with the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association and network solutions group Omnitouch Network Services. That earlier effort gathered mobile operators, meteorological services, regulators, UN agencies and governments around mobile early warning in the region. The project also feeds into the GSMA's contribution to the Early Warnings for All initiative.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Developing Telecoms** · GSMA receives funding for Pacific Island mobile weather alert systems

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