Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Wednesday 4 November 2026

- Data-centre power policy dominates the edition.
- The AFR reports draft AI laws that would bar new suburban data centres and steer gigawatt-scale projects to regional sites, while AEMO forecasts data centres using 34TWh a year by 2035–36, up from about 5TWh.
- In wholesale, Optus launched a Layer 3 NBN platform at all 121 points of interconnect, and Vodafone's scam call claim puts Aussie Broadband's Symbio unit under scrutiny.

11 stories · **17 min** reading · **16** sources · Online at besteffort.au/editions/2026-11-04

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POLICY & REGULATION 1 OF 11

Draft AI laws would bar new suburban data centres, AFR reports

The Albanese government's draft AI laws would prohibit new data centres in suburban Australia and steer gigawatt-scale projects to regional sites, according to an Australian Financial Review report of 29 October. Consultation is due by the end of 2026.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

If the draft proceeds, inner-metro expansion such as that in Melbourne's inner west would face a new hurdle, and large campuses would shift to regional sites that still depend on the grid. The proposed energy obligations add cost uncertainty for operators, including those that expected grandfathering.

Draft AI laws being prepared by the Albanese government would stop new data centres being built in suburban Australia, the Australian Financial Review reported on 29 October. Business parks in inner Sydney and Melbourne would be the first places the rule is tested, and public consultation is due by the end of 2026.

Projects at gigawatt scale would be directed to regional locations. CDC plans a 1.4 GW campus at Wagga Wagga, while AirTrunk has proposed a 550 MW campus on the old Hydro Aluminium smelter site near Kurri Kurri. Zerra DC's Western Downs Digital Park near Dalby is a further example, with Anthropic having signed a lease that is pending FIRB.

Several Melbourne proposals sit in the area the rule would affect. NextDC applied in February for stages 6 and 7 of its M3 site and expects the Victorian government to decide after the state election on 28 November. Assessments are also under way for GreenSquareDC's Spotswood campus and a second Centuria building at Clayton. All sit in the inner west, where community opposition has already held up power upgrades at the existing M3 facility.

The location rule is part of the same draft package as proposed energy rules. Capital Brief reported that developers were caught off guard by those rules, which might extend a renewables mandate further than expected. Existing facilities, and projects that believed they would be grandfathered, could face obligations worth billions. Chris Bowen has raised power cuts as a possible penalty for centres that do not comply.

For two years operators have argued that power, water and planning are the real constraints. The draft ban is the first public statement from the government that suburban sites themselves are the problem. Inner-city business

parks in Sydney and Melbourne are where transmission disputes have already occurred, and regional sites avoid those streets but still need grid supply.

REPORTING FROM

1 **TechReviewAustralia** · Suburban Data Centre Ban: Albanese Government Plans to Block New Sites in Draft AI Laws

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 2 OF 11

Optus Wholesale enters Layer 3 NBN market with API-first platform

Optus Wholesale has launched a Layer 3 NBN wholesale platform available at all 121 points of interconnect, with Yomojo among its first partners. Optus said the platform already supports Amaysim and is now open to external providers.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The launch adds another wholesale option for retail providers buying NBN access at Layer 3, with an automated ordering model aimed at smaller challenger brands.

Optus Wholesale has entered the Layer 3 wholesale NBN market with a new API-first platform that lets service providers order, manage and scale broadband services, ARN reported on 3 November 2026. The platform is available nationally across all 121 NBN points of interconnect and covers speed tiers from nbn 25 to nbn 1000. Partners can integrate directly through APIs or manage services through the MyWholesale Portal.

Optus is pitching the offer as different from traditional wholesale models because partners keep control of their own systems, devices and product packaging. John Castro, executive general manager of Optus Wholesale, said Optus would not tell partners which systems to use, which devices to supply or how to package their products. Castro said Optus supplies "a proven network, an automated platform and support from teams here in Australia, then get out of their way."

According to Optus, automated ordering and assurance capabilities are meant to simplify onboarding and operations so providers can scale without adding operational complexity.

Yomojo is among the first partners signed. The challenger brand plans to use the service as it pursues growth targets over the next three years. Yomojo CEO James Linton said the company has "a target of 50,000 services over 36 months and a small team". Linton said he benchmarked almost 20 NBN wholesale providers before signing with Optus. He said the ordering and provisioning layer is what Yomojo was buying, more than the access service itself.

Optus Wholesale also positions the NBN product as an entry point to its wider connectivity portfolio. Castro said customers can later move to offerings such as Optus Fibre or NBN Enterprise Ethernet without changing wholesale provider. He described Optus Wholesale NBN as "a starting point, not a ceiling."

The platform is not new in operation: Optus said it already underpins Amaysim's Layer 3 NBN services and is now being offered to external wholesale partners.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ARN** · Optus Wholesale launches API-first Layer 3 NBN platform, targets service provider growth

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

DATA CENTRES 3 OF 11

AEMO forecasts data centres will use 34TWh a year by 2035–36, up from about 5TWh

AEMO's 2026 Electricity Statement of Opportunities projects data centres rising to about 13 per cent of National Electricity Market consumption over the decade. The operator also points to heavy project attrition and uncertainty over when and where connections will land.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

For data centre developers, grid connection capacity and timing are becoming central constraints, with network businesses needing to plan for large, concentrated loads in NSW and Victoria. Unsettled national standards and unresolved cost allocation leave uncertainty over the power requirements and network costs facing future projects.

The Australian Energy Market Operator expects data centres to draw 34TWh by 2035–36, compared with about 5TWh in 2025–26, according to its 2026 Electricity Statement of Opportunities. On that path, data centres would go from roughly 3 per cent of National Electricity Market consumption to approximately 13 per cent.

The modelling looked at 225 known projects in the connection process, together seeking around 67GW of connection capacity. Utility Magazine noted that proposed capacity does not necessarily turn into demand. Since the previous year's forecast, over 40 per cent of projects had either exited or slipped back to an earlier connection stage. In response, AEMO changed its method to allow for projects falling away, for connection capacity exceeding real consumption, and for the time sites take to ramp up.

In the first quarter of 2026, 11 large projects with 5.4GW of maximum demand were moving through the transmission connection process. About 60 per cent of that capacity was in NSW and the rest in Victoria. Large facilities can need hundreds of megawatts and may cluster in particular areas, which can trigger transmission and distribution investment beyond the site itself. Because a site may start with a small initial load and grow towards full capacity, it is harder to say when and where spending will be needed.

AEMO expects total NEM consumption to rise by more than 40 per cent over the next decade, with electrification and new mining and manufacturing loads alongside data centres. About 15GW of coal and gas generation is scheduled to retire. On supply, 9.1GW of generation and storage connected during 2025–26, and around 40GW of committed and anticipated projects are expected to be delivered by the early 2030s. The ESOO also shows an improved reliability outlook, with no forecast reliability gaps before 2030.

Policy remains in flux. At the National Cabinet meeting on August 26, the federal government eased its stance on requiring new data centres to run on additional renewable generation backed by firming. The resulting agreement gives Queensland and the Northern Territory more room, including allowing coal and gas to supply data centres under the emerging national framework. The national standards are still being developed.

Utility Magazine also raised the question of how infrastructure costs for major new loads should be shared when a few very large customers drive the investment. How much of the projected demand arrives will depend on AI adoption, project financing, construction timelines and connection outcomes.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Utility Magazine** · Data centre demand to reach 34TWh by 2036, AEMO reports

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 4 OF 11

Kudosity opens RCS agent registration and testing to Australian businesses

Australian-owned messaging provider Kudosity is letting local businesses sign up and trial RCS agents before carriers offer the service widely. The company says registering does not secure commercial activation in Australia.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

RCS adds identity checks and carrier approval steps that SMS does not require, so providers and businesses are preparing before networks open broader local activation.

Kudosity, an Australian-owned business messaging provider, will now help local companies register, configure and trial RCS agents while mobile networks work towards wider availability of the standard. Companies can lodge interest to find out what agent registration demands, weigh up possible uses and get advice on building a branded experience. Where they qualify, they can set up agents and try supported functions in a controlled environment.

The move comes after Telstra said it plans to bring RCS to its mobile customers by the end of this year. RCS layers branded sender profiles, rich media, buttons, suggested replies, read receipts and two-way conversations onto messaging, and runs inside compatible native apps rather than a separate download.

Kudosity describes the offer as groundwork, not a commercial launch in Australia. Registering and testing carry no promise of going live, because commercial messaging still depends on brand verification, carrier approvals and network availability. Business RCS also needs more preparation than SMS, covering identity verification, agent configuration and a defined use case.

Chief executive Alex Macpherson said RCS was "already changing how businesses communicate with customers in markets around the world, creating opportunities for more trusted, interactive and personalised experiences". He said readiness meant more than flipping a switch, as businesses must think about brand identity, customer experience and how they will use the technology.

Kudosity already offers RCS in the United States, the United Kingdom and some European countries. The company said this may give Australian firms with overseas customers a quicker path to live use, subject to local registration and approval rules.

RCS sits alongside SMS, MMS and WhatsApp on the platform, and businesses can connect it to existing systems through an API. Messages can drop back to SMS where a device or network does not support RCS. Jason Edward, founder and director of Simple Salon, a Kudosity customer, said introducing RCS had been "a straightforward process with the support of the Kudosity team".

TelcoNews noted that Australian business messaging has been dominated by SMS, with WhatsApp and other app-based channels used in selected cases.

REPORTING FROM

1 **iTWire** · Kudosity Opens RCS Agent Registration To Help Australian Businesses Get Ready For Rich Messaging

2 **TelcoNews Australia** · Kudosity opens RCS testing for Australian businesses

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 5 OF 11

Aussie Broadband's Symbio unit under scrutiny after Vodafone scam call claim

Symbio, bought by Aussie Broadband for $262 million in 2023, contributes about 17 per cent of group revenue and is now in the spotlight after Vodafone accused it of carrying 98 per cent of 24.8 million scam calls to its customers.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Vodafone's allegation goes to how wholesale number hosting is policed, and it touches a business that accounts for about 17 per cent of Aussie Broadband's revenue.

Vodafone has accused Aussie Broadband's Symbio business of being responsible for 98 per cent of 24.8 million scam calls made to Vodafone customers over 12 months, Rampart reported. The claim, made last month, has put a spotlight on an acquisition that Aussie Broadband pitched as a way to move beyond reselling the National Broadband Network.

Aussie struck a $262 million cash and scrip deal to buy the communications-as-a-service company in November 2023. Founder Phillip Britt said at the time that the company had been impressed by Symbio's team and culture, which he said were well aligned with Aussie's. He promised the deal would be earnings-

per-share accretive in the first year and would help diversify Aussie away from being just an NBN reseller. Britt stood down from the Aussie board in March, ending his association with the company he founded with John Reisinger in 2003.

Aussie no longer breaks out Symbio's contribution, but past disclosures suggest it brought in close to $220 million a year in revenue in financial 2026, at a gross margin of a little under 50 per cent. That is about 17 per cent of Aussie's total revenue of $1.3 billion for the year. Gross margin is Aussie's preferred divisional measure, calculated as revenue less network and hardware expenses, and excluding staff and other corporate costs.

Symbio specialises in hosting phone services for wholesalers and large businesses, including numbers used to dial into Zoom or Microsoft Teams meetings. Enterprise customers can buy thousands of numbers at a time, and Aussie hosts more than 8.3 million through Symbio and Netsip, a similar but far smaller business it owns.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Rampart** · Aussie Broadband's growing pains

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

DATA CENTRES 6 OF 11

Swinburne spinout Microcomb launches photonic chip to cut data centre power use

Microcomb, a company formed by researchers from Swinburne, Monash and RMIT, has launched optical microcomb technology aimed at moving more data through AI data centres with less energy. It has pre-seed funding from Innovation Victoria and is building a demonstrator.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Power is a constraint on AI data centre growth, and Microcomb is pitching a lower-energy way to add optical channels without major upgrades, though the technology has yet to reach a demonstrator stage.

A new deep technology company, Microcomb, has launched out of Swinburne University of Technology with photonic chip technology aimed at the energy demands of data centres. The company says it is the first in Australia to bring

optical microcomb technology to market and one of the first worldwide to apply it to data centres.

The technology builds on research published in Nature and uses an optical microcomb, a fingernail-sized chip that converts a single laser colour into many colours of laser light for carrying data. The chip splits that light into many channels, which the company likens to turning a single-lane road into a multi-lane data highway.

Professor David Moss, director of the Swinburne Optical Sciences Centre and a Microcomb co-founder, said conventional optical transmission relies on multiple lasers to create separate channels. He said that approach "requires significant power to operate the lasers and detectors, while limiting the amount of data each channel can carry". In Microcomb's design, a laser sends light down a fibre and a small microcomb chip is inserted to split it into multiple channels.

Moss said a key advantage is the small footprint, which could let the technology be introduced without large components or major upgrades. He said AI data centres depend on many servers working as one large computer, which demands far more connections, fibre optics and data movement, all of which consume power. Moss described the energy needed to support this growth as "the huge bottleneck we're up against".

Microcomb brings together David Moss from Swinburne, Bill Corcoran from Monash University and Arnan Mitchell from RMIT University. It has support from the ARC Centre of Excellence in Optical Microcombs and pre-seed investment from Innovation Victoria. With incorporation complete and financing secured, the company has started building a customer-informed demonstrator and is talking to prospective customers and partners in AI infrastructure and photonic communications.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Energy Source & Distribution** · Fingernail-sized chip to tackle data centre energy usage

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

FIBRE, SUBSEA & INTERCONNECT 7 OF 11

HKT and PCCW Global to quit US carrier services by 1 September 2027 under FCC decree

The FCC has adopted a consent decree ending its show-cause case against HKT (International) and PCCW Global, with the companies agreeing to stop all US common carrier services by 1 September 2027. There is no fine and no Covered List designation.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The decree shows the FCC will act on an 18.41 per cent minority stake held by a Chinese state-owned enterprise, which matters for transpacific carriers and customers with capacity on PCCW Global and HKT-linked cable systems. Customers have until September 2027 to move circuits.

HKT (International) Limited and its subsidiaries, including PCCW Global, have agreed to permanently stop providing US domestic interstate and international common carrier services by 1 September 2027, under a consent decree adopted by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC released Order DA 26-1163 on 30 October 2026, closing the show-cause proceeding it opened against the companies on 15 October 2025.

Under the decree, the companies must start formal discontinuance processes within 30 days of the effective date and then file a surrender notice within 30 days of finishing the discontinuance. That notice will relinquish HKT's 12 international Section 214 authorisations and its domestic blanket operating authority. The companies also agreed not to offer such services in the US again without prior Commission authorisation.

The FCC cited HKT's links to China Unicom, which holds about 18.41 per cent of PCCW Limited, HKT's indirect parent. Light Reading, citing Reuters, described Unicom as an 18 per cent shareholder in PCCW, which it said owns 52 per cent of HKT. Regulators asserted that Unicom's minority interest and past board representation could give a foreign state leverage, following the FCC's 2022 revocation of China Unicom (Americas)' Section 214 authority.

HKT gets no penalty and no Covered List listing. The FCC acknowledged that none of the five entities is on that list and agreed the proceeding and decree cannot be cited to designate them. The settlement involves no admission of liability, and the FCC agreed not to start new revocation proceedings on the same record absent new material evidence.

Submarine Networks reported that the decree does not revoke HKT's submarine cable landing licences, including those for JUPITER and the legacy AAG cable. It said commercial and wet-plant operations touching US shores would nonetheless be significantly curtailed. The outlet also said that, because broadband is classified under Title II, the loss of Section 214 authority bars PCCW Global from operating its AS3491 network in the US, forcing it to leave its US points of presence and re-home peering to Canada, Europe and Asia.

The 10-month wind-down is longer than the standard 60-day period, according to Submarine Networks, reflecting PCCW Global's enterprise and wholesale customer base. It said the timeline gives customers room to run tenders and migrate circuits to other carriers. Light Reading said the FCC counts PCCW Global's US footprint as international services to and from the country plus interstate domestic services across 30 states.

HKT has made no public comment, but a spokesperson told the South China Morning Post the company remained "fully compliant with all applicable regulatory requirements." China's Ministry of Commerce urged the FCC to withdraw the order and said it was "severely undermining" China-US trade relations. Light Reading called the move largely symbolic, noting HKT's income comes overwhelmingly from Hong Kong, and said HKT's shares fell 1.2 per cent on Monday.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Submarine Networks** · FCC Mandates U.S. Market Exit for HKT and PCCW Global
2 **Light Reading** · HKT pulls out of US under FCC pressure – report

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 8 OF 11

Digicel goes live on Vodafone tower in PNG under sharing deal

Digicel PNG is now running services from a Vodafone PNG tower in Minj, the first live site under the sharing agreement the two operators struck in September. A second site is lined up.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The move from signed agreements to a live shared site in Papua New Guinea shows tower sharing being applied to extend coverage without duplicating infrastructure, which is relevant to Australian carriers with interests in the region.

Digicel PNG has switched on its network at a Vodafone PNG tower, the first operational step under the infrastructure-sharing agreement the two carriers signed in September. The site is at Minj, which is the administrative capital of the Anglimp-South Waghi District in Jiwaka Province.

Digicel said the Minj site is the start of a broader push to lift the number of co-located sites nationwide. A second shared site is planned, this time on Digicel infrastructure in Baiyer River Local-Level Government, Western Highlands Province, where Vodafone PNG services are due to be added shortly, according to Digicel.

Digicel said in a statement that reusing existing towers could bring forward network expansion, lift service availability and offer communities more connectivity and choice.

The Digicel and Vodafone arrangement is one of three infrastructure-sharing deals between Papua New Guinea operators announced over recent months. Vodafone PNG reached its own co-location agreement with state-owned Telikom PNG in late July, while Digicel PNG agreed a separate tower-sharing deal with Telikom PNG in October. Together the agreements set up a framework for the carriers to use each other's existing infrastructure as they try to widen network reach.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Telecom Review Asia** · Digicel, Vodafone Activate First Shared Tower in Papua New Guinea

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

DATA CENTRES 9 OF 11

NextDC shares rise 3% on Monday after M3 power delay drove eight-year low

NextDC shares gained 3.41 per cent to A$6.07 on 2 November 2026, extending a rebound from an eight-year low hit after a Melbourne grid delay forced deep cuts to FY27 guidance.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 4 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The episode shows a financed and built data centre can still be held up by a distribution line needing council consent, and EnergyNews.biz said other Australian operators will read it as a test of how much grid capacity can be assumed when contracts are signed.

Shares in NextDC rose 20 cents, or 3.41 per cent, to A$6.07 in afternoon trading on Monday 2 November 2026, extending a recovery from an eight-year low, according to a report carried by QOSHE from International Business Times. The stock traded between A$5.68 and A$6.08, nearly 6 million shares changed hands, and the company is valued at about A$4.6 billion. The report said technology stocks were broadly weaker in Australia after a sell-off in AI-related shares on Wall Street, and that the reason for NextDC's gain was not immediately clear.

The shares slumped after NextDC announced on 21 October that a power delay at its M3 data centre in Melbourne would reduce its FY27 outlook. Cls.cn reported the stock dropped as much as 44 per cent during that session and closed at A$5.35, while Motley Fool Australia put the low at A$5.07. Motley Fool Australia said the price was A$6.18 on 30 October, still 60.5 per cent lower than a year earlier.

The cause lies outside the data centre. EnergyNews.biz reported that the distributor Jemena suspended parts of its 66 kV line augmentation works in September 2026, citing community and stakeholder opposition and the local council withholding consent pending consultation. Jemena does not expect to restart before February 2027, and the next increase in grid supply at M3 is now expected in FY28. Later power increases depend on transformer projects at the Brooklyn Terminal Station, the first of which is running late, and the Victorian planning decision on Stages 6 and 7 is not expected until 2027, after the state election on 28 November 2026.

Revised FY27 net revenue guidance is $475 million to $500 million, down from $615 million to $640 million, and underlying EBITDA guidance is now $245 million to $265 million, compared with $385 million to $410 million

before. Both revised ranges leave out the affected M3 contracts, which the company put at about A$140 million each in its August guidance. Capital expenditure guidance fell to A$4,500 million to A$5,000 million from A$5,250 million to A$5,750 million, and the company paused new development projects, land acquisitions and projects without customer contracts behind them. Cls.cn reported the company is also weighing capital recycling, including selling some development land.

NextDC followed with a release on 28 October confirming it was complying with its debt covenants. EnergyNews.biz reported total liquidity of A$8,675 million, comprising cash, undrawn senior facilities and a hybrid delayed draw. UBS kept its buy rating and $18.50 price target in a note on 29 October, saying the company has the funds and debt capacity for the M3 contracts, the power works and a good part of future wins. UBS described the situation as a "small wobble in the longer-term structural story of cloud/AI". Other brokers differ: RBC Capital Markets has a $22 price target, while Morgan Stanley's is $6.70. Cls.cn reported Citi said the approval delay and transformer timing could carry the earnings impact beyond FY27.

REPORTING FROM

1. **EnergyNews.biz** · Nextdc M3 Power Delay: Critical Grid Works Stall
2. **The Motley Fool Australia** · I own Nextdc shares. I hope this broker is right about them
3. **QOSHE** · QOSHE - NextDC Shares Climb 3% As Data Centre Stock Extends Rebound From Eight-Year Low After Melbourne Power Shock
4. **cls.cn** · 2511045

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

FIBRE, SUBSEA & INTERCONNECT 10 OF 11

OMS Group closes US$1.03 billion financing to add four cable-laying vessels

Malaysia-based subsea services firm OMS Group has closed a US$1.03 billion financing package, mainly to buy four new cable-laying vessels due in 2027 and 2028. The company said lenders oversubscribed the corporate and export-credit-backed facilities by more than two times.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Cable-laying vessel capacity feeds into the delivery of new subsea systems, and these additional ships are being financed on the back of demand from cloud, AI and data centre growth.

OMS Group, a subsea services company, has wrapped up US$1.03 billion in financing to support its growth, including the purchase of four new fibre-optic cable-laying ships. The ships are due to join the fleet in 2027 and 2028. Light Reading reported the deal on 3 November 2026.

The package comprises US$911.5 million of term loans that carry corporate, trade and export credit agency backing, along with another US$120 million of trade facilities that await financial close. Atradius Dutch State Business and Export Finance Norway, both export credit agencies, will back the vessel financing.

HSBC Singapore and Standard Chartered Bank acted as joint global coordinators, bookrunners and ECA coordinators, and KKR Capital Markets advised the company. OMS Group said regional and international banks took part strongly, among them existing partners and new lenders. In its statement, the company said both the corporate and ECA-backed facilities were "oversubscribed by more than two times, reflecting broad-based lender confidence in the Group and its growth plans". It added that a coordinated process was used to structure the facilities, shaped around the industry and its expansion plans.

Through its OMS Telco division, the company operates five cable-laying vessels and has four more being built. Light Reading said the extra ships will expand its capacity to lay cable as demand for subsea connectivity rises with cloud computing, AI and data centres.

OMS Group CEO Ronnie Lim said the financing backs "long-term growth plans and continued investments in the group’s end-to-end digital infrastructure capabilities". Lim said the four newbuilds are meant to boost

capacity and help customers build the networks underpinning global digital growth.

Abhishek Pandey, global head of transportation finance at Standard Chartered, said OMS Group was "well positioned to capture the significant opportunities arising from the continued expansion of global digital infrastructure."

REPORTING FROM

1 **Light Reading** · Malaysia's OMS Group raises $1.03B loan to expand subsea cable fleet

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

POLICY & REGULATION 11 OF 11

T□tea warns One NZ–2degrees RanCo could block M□ori spectrum from networks

M□ori-owned telco T□tea told the Commerce Commission that the planned One NZ–2degrees shared radio network company could control access for M□ori spectrum. SafetyNet and Tuanz also lodged submissions raising public safety and upgrade concerns.

Best Effort desk · Wed 4 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The latest submissions move the RanCo review from competition questions towards structural conditions, and because the Commission can only clear or decline, any change would have to come from the applicants rewriting their proposal.

T□tea, a M□ori-owned telco, has told the Commerce Commission that the planned One NZ–2degrees radio access network joint venture, RanCo, could become a gatekeeper that makes it harder for M□ori spectrum to reach mobile networks. The company holds commercial 4G and 5G spectrum but depends on mobile network operators to carry its services.

Under the current arrangement, T□tea said in its submission, a service agreed with either 2degrees or One NZ can be put in place on that operator's own network. With RanCo in the picture, it said, the new company would have to carry out the work, which raises the questions of who decides and who knows. T□tea told the Commission that this would let RanCo veto hosting requests from third parties or expose confidential wholesale customer plans. It said M□ ori spectrum holdings, which are due to grow under Crown commitments, risk

being sidelined.

T□tea also argues that the venture threatens its infrastructure business. Its Network Services arm, formerly Broadtech, is the main strategic build partner for tower company Fortysouth and also works for Connexa. T□tea says RanCo's purpose of merging overlapping equipment and removing duplicate infrastructure will mean fewer new cell sites nationwide, and that the lost construction revenue could undermine funding for workforce programmes that train M□ori in technical roles.

SafetyNet, the Crown agency responsible for emergency service communications, wants the Commission to make sure the joint venture does not compromise public safety networks. One NZ runs the back-end cellular services for emergency services through the Public Safety Network, and SafetyNet fears that handing radio network control to RanCo could let 2degrees delay or veto upgrades needed for public safety. SafetyNet asks the regulator to seek firm assurances that public safety requirements will not face "unreasonable delay, cost or constraint" because 2degrees does not share them. It also warns that putting around 60 per cent of New Zealand's mobile connections on common electronics and baseband software creates a single point of failure in disasters or cyber incidents, although it does not oppose the deal on competition grounds.

The Technology Users Association of New Zealand (Tuanz) warns that a 50/50 joint venture creates hold-up risks for business connectivity, for example if 2degrees vetoes capital spending that One NZ wants for an enterprise feature. It suggests a compromise like Australia's, with shared radio gear only in rural areas and separate competing networks in major cities.

Securing such guarantees may be difficult because Section 66 of the Commerce Act 1986 stops the Commission issuing a conditional clearance tied to ongoing operational promises, leaving it only to clear or decline. If it has preliminary competition concerns it issues a Statement of Issues, and the onus then falls on One NZ and 2degrees to offer structural carve-outs or risk rejection.

REPORTING FROM

1 **scoop.co.nz** · T□Ätea fears Ranco could block M□ori spectrum

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