Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Thursday 5 November 2026

- Goodman and Digital Realty have offered A$715m for up to 9.9 per cent of NextDC at A$9.50 a share, a 45.5 per cent premium to its closing price after the October share price collapse.
- Telstra blamed a MessageBank fault for floods of false missed call texts on Wednesday 4 November 2026, saying Triple Zero was unaffected.
- Aussie Broadband is moving about 350,000 AGL telco services onto its platforms.

14 stories · **21 min** reading · **20** sources · Online at besteffort.au/editions/2026-11-05

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DATA CENTRES 1 OF 14

Goodman and Digital Realty offer A$715m for up to 9.9% of NextDC

Goodman Group and Digital Realty have launched an after-market offer at A$9.50 a share for up to 9.9 per cent of NextDC, a 45.5 per cent premium to its closing price, after the data centre operator's share price collapse in October.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The approach puts a price on NextDC equity from two large players after the stock lost 42 per cent in a day, at a time when its Melbourne grid-connection delay has pushed back contracted revenue. The bidders say they are not seeking control for now, though they reserve the right to change that.

Goodman Group and Digital Realty offered on Wednesday to buy up to 9.9 per cent of NextDC in a deal worth about A$715 million (US$499.7 million), according to a term sheet reported by Reuters. The pair set the price at A$9.50 a share through an after-market offer, which is a 45.5 per cent premium to NextDC's Wednesday closing price of A$6.53. JPMorgan is leading the offer, the term sheet said.

According to the term sheet, the two bidders are not planning a takeover bid or a move for control of NextDC at present, but they keep the option open should circumstances change. NextDC declined to comment, and the two bidders did not immediately respond to requests sent outside Australian and US business hours.

The offer follows a sharp sell-off in NextDC stock. Shares fell 42 per cent on 21 October, when the company made its announcement. NextDC said electricity network upgrades at one of its major Melbourne projects would defer about A$140 million of contracted customer revenue this financial year. The Motley Fool reported that the distributor, Jemena, had suspended network connection works for the M3 Melbourne data centre in West Footscray, and that NextDC cut its FY27 guidance as a result. NextDC also said it would shelve all new development projects and land acquisitions for the foreseeable future, and would evaluate capital recycling, including possible sales of selected development sites.

The Motley Fool said the one-day fall wiped around $3 billion off NextDC's market capitalisation. It said the downgrade landed amid growing controversy around data centres, including Firmus Technologies abandoning its IPO plans and community backlash. The outlet also cited the Australian Financial Review

as reporting that the government is set to ban data centres from being built near homes and recreational facilities. UniSuper chief investment officer John Pearce suggested in the Financial Review that the valuation should have been "closer to $1 than $11".

Reuters said NextDC shares have fallen 45 per cent so far this year, while the Motley Fool put the decline at nearly 50 per cent. The Motley Fool said most analysts still rate the stock a buy, and that UBS has a price target of $18.

REPORTING FROM

1 **The Motley Fool Australia** · Looking to buy NextDC shares? You might get them even cheaper after 21 December

2 **Devdiscourse** · Goodman Group, Digital Realty launch up to $499.7 million share bid on NextDC: term sheet

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

POLICY & REGULATION 2 OF 14

SpinTel pays $653,400 penalty over 32,000 spam emails to ex-customers

SpinTel has paid a penalty after the ACMA found it emailed more than 32,000 marketing messages without consent. It has also signed a three-year enforceable undertaking.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The outcome signals that the ACMA expects consent for win-back marketing aimed at long-lapsed customers, which bears on retail service providers selling NBN and mobile plans. SpinTel now faces an independent compliance review and ongoing audits under the undertaking.

SpinTel has paid $653,400 in penalties following an ACMA investigation into more than 32,000 commercial emails sent without consent. According to the regulator, the emails were sent from July to September 2025, inviting people who had left the telco to come back and promoting its NBN and mobile plans.

SpinTel argued that it could reasonably infer consent because the recipients had once been its customers. The ACMA pointed out that some of the people contacted had cut ties with the company as much as 13 years before.

ACMA member Samantha Yorke said an earlier business relationship does not by itself amount to consent for marketing. Yorke said the consumers in this case "had left SpinTel and it was clear the relationship had ended". She said whether consent can be inferred turns on the circumstances, including the nature of the relationship, how relevant the messages are to it and what the recipient would reasonably expect.

The investigation also found five messages that went out more than five business days after the recipients had unsubscribed.

The ACMA has also accepted a court enforceable undertaking running for three years. It requires SpinTel to engage an independent consultant to review its compliance with spam laws, and to conduct regular audits and report to the regulator.

Yorke said the ACMA generally prefers that businesses rely on express consent, agreed in advance under clear terms that state how long it lasts. The ACMA has put guidance on its website for businesses trying to follow the spam rules. It said spam penalties paid by businesses over the past 18 months exceed $11 million.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ACMA** · SpinTel pays $653K penalty for spamming former customers

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 3 OF 14

Dodo adds $19 unlimited mobile plan for NBN customers, capped at 50Mbps

Dodo has launched an "infinity mobile plan" at $19 a month, available only to customers who also have one of its NBN services. Data is unlimited but held to a permanent 50Mbps cap on the Optus network.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A permanently capped but uncapped-volume mobile plan, tied to an NBN service, adds a bundling lever in retail competition, and puts Optus-network wholesale capacity behind a 50Mbps unlimited offer.

Dodo NBN customers can now add an unlimited data mobile plan to their account for $19 a month, WhistleOut reported on 5 November 2026. The plan is described as an "infinity mobile plan" and has no data allowance limit, with speeds capped at 50Mbps.

WhistleOut said that makes it comparable to felix mobile, which it described as the only other provider with a truly unlimited mobile plan. felix's unlimited plans are limited to 40Mbps or 80Mbps, depending on price. Other providers' plans labelled unlimited typically give a full-speed allowance and then drop to a much slower speed once it is used, such as 1.5Mbps after 50GB. WhistleOut said Dodo's 50Mbps is far more usable than that and equates to an NBN 50 connection.

The plan can be added to any Dodo NBN plan. New customers can bundle it at sign-up, while existing customers can add it through the MyDodo portal. A maximum of two infinity plans can be attached to one Dodo account.

Dodo's mobile plans run on the Optus network. The infinity plan also includes unlimited talk and text and $100 of international call credit each month.

There is a catch for customers who leave the fixed line behind. If someone cancels their Dodo NBN plan but keeps the mobile service, they will be moved to Dodo's most expensive mobile plan from the next billing month, which WhistleOut said was $40 a month at the time of writing.

Dodo's NBN range runs from the nbn25 Unlimited Plan, at a standard $73.99 a month, to the nbn Home Ultrafast Plan at a standard $109.99. A $30 monthly discount for six months applies on current offers, bringing the entry plan to $43.99 a month for the first six months. Customers can also take $5 off for bundling gas and $5 for electricity. Dodo sells electricity in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria, and gas in New South Wales and Victoria only.

REPORTING FROM

1 **WhistleOut** · Dodo has a $19 unlimited data mobile plan, but only for its NBN customers

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

POLICY & REGULATION 4 OF 14

ACMA proposes annual application fee to fund SMS Sender ID Register

The ACMA wants sender ID applicants to pay an annual fee that would cover the Register's running costs from the 2027–28 financial year. Comment is open until Friday 4 December 2026.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Whether applicants pay directly or telcos collect and pass on the fees will decide who carries the cost and administrative load of the anti-scam Register, and any lower fees or exemptions would affect which organisations can afford to register.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has opened a consultation on how to pay for the ongoing operation of the SMS Sender ID Register, floating an annual fee charged when a sender ID is registered. The ACMA proposes that the arrangement begin in the 2027–28 financial year. A consultation paper sets out the proposal, and the regulator's media announcement is dated 4 November 2026.

The Register is designed to curb SMS and MMS scams in which criminals pose as trusted businesses, organisations and government agencies. Legitimate entities can list the sender IDs they use when texting Australian consumers.

The ACMA wants views on the charging model and how the scheme would be administered. One open question is whether applicants should pay the fees to the ACMA themselves, or whether telcos should pay on their behalf. The regulator also asks how long a registration should last, and whether some entities should get reduced fees or exemptions.

Comments can be lodged through the ACMA website until 5pm AEDT on Friday 4 December 2026. The consultation paper explains how to send a submission by post.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ACMA** · Cost recovery options for SMS Sender ID Register
2 **Australian Communications and Media Authority** · ACMA consults on cost recovery options for SMS Sender ID Register

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 5 OF 14

Telstra blames MessageBank fault for flood of delayed missed call alerts

Telstra customers received waves of missed call and voicemail texts, some up to 100, for calls that never happened on Wednesday 4 November 2026. The telco said a MessageBank fault was to blame, that it was fixed, and that Triple Zero, voice calls and mobile data were unaffected.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The fault was an internal platform problem rather than a network failure, but it came months after the July outage and shows how quickly confusion and speculation about attacks spread when a carrier's systems misbehave.

Telstra said a fault in its MessageBank voicemail service caused customers to receive a burst of delayed missed call and voicemail notifications on Wednesday 4 November 2026. Customers reported SMS inboxes filling with alerts about calls from people who had not tried to ring them, and some said they received up to 100 such notifications while their phones never rang.

A Telstra spokesperson told the ABC the company was aware of the situation and it had been resolved. The spokesperson said in a statement that the telco had experienced a MessageBank issue "earlier today, which has now been fixed". The spokesperson also said customers might see "a number of delayed missed call and voicemail notifications arriving all at once". Telstra added that it was sorry for the confusion, and the spokesperson said there was no impact to Triple Zero calls, voice calls or mobile data.

Users described the oddity on Facebook, Reddit and X. One Facebook user wrote that they had missed call texts from people who had possibly called the previous week. Another said a text reported a missed call that did not appear in their call log, and the person they rang confirmed they had never called. Some users speculated that Telstra was under cyber attack, but 7NEWS reported the telco moved quickly to dispel suspicions of anything sinister.

The ABC noted that DownDetector showed a spike in reported issues with Telstra on the day.

The incident follows a nationwide Telstra outage on 8 July in which hundreds of Triple Zero calls could not connect, with about 45 per cent of all calls and data connections on the network affected, the ABC reported. 7NEWS reported that a report released in September found two engineers primarily involved in the software upgrade behind that outage were on "mandatory standdown" at

the time.

REPORTING FROM

1. **Head Topics** · Telstra MessageBank fault floods phones with missed call alerts
2. **7NEWS** · Telstra customers inundated by delayed missed call notifications as telco blames MessageBank issue
3. **ABC News** · Telstra customers flooded with 'confusing' missed call notifications

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

DATA CENTRES 6 OF 14

Anthropic signs lease for first stage of Western Downs data centre campus

Anthropic's Australian subsidiary has signed lease documentation with Dexus-backed Australian Data Centres for the first stage of a Queensland campus, which is also the subject of a council application by Zerra DC and a local petition.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The lease ties a frontier AI developer to a gigawatt-scale Queensland campus whose power, water and approvals questions are still open, and the outcome of the council assessment and the ADC capital raise will shape whether the 2027 timeline holds.

Anthropic's Australian subsidiary has signed lease documentation with Australian Data Centres (ADC) for the first stage of a hyperscale campus in Queensland's Western Downs, Private Wealth Daily reported on 3 November 2026. Dexus told the Australian Stock Exchange in its September quarterly update that the agreement is subject to customary approvals, including from the Dexus board. Dexus holds 85 per cent of ADC, and the lease terms were not disclosed.

September reports put the plan at four data centres on 720 hectares at Dalby, with 2.16GW of capacity and the first online in 2027. Zerra DC, reported to be part of the consortium, lodged an application for a Western Downs campus in August 2026. That filing describes building 1A at 36,000 square metres of data hall floor space, with a battery-backed power conditioning system and a 540MVA substation. Buildings 1B, 2A and 2B would each have the same floor area.

Grain Central reported that Zerra's application for the Western Downs Digital Park was lodged with Western Downs Regional Council on 20 August, with public submissions open until 11 November. The site is at Kogan, next to the gas-fired Braemar Power Station. Zerra says the first stage, the 360MW Building A, will run on grid power via Powerlink, with batteries added in later stages. Zerra says the halls will be air-cooled in a closed loop and Building A will need about 21,000 litres of water a day. Zerra also said Macquarie Capital is participating as a consortium partner and project and financial adviser.

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli told state Parliament on 16 September that Anthropic had signed an agreement for its first Australian data centre, with the site planned to come online in 2027. He said the project "must add energy generation to the grid and drive down power prices for Queenslanders".

Local opposition is building. Save Our Darling Downs spokesperson Liza Balmain described the project as "an energy-hungry monster" needing 2.16GW at full capacity. More than 24,000 people have signed an e-petition against the development, which closes on 1 March 2027 ahead of presentation to Queensland Parliament. Mayor Andrew Smith said the council will assess the proposal thoroughly, and that it was too early to say when a decision would come.

ADC is a small business by its own chief executive's account: Ross Du Vernet of Dexus called it "a small Australian data center business." Its website lists two operating Canberra data centres, with Melbourne, Sydney and Darwin in development. Du Vernet said ADC has "launched a fundraising process to introduce additional capital to the business, of which Dexus is yet to determine the extent to which it will participate". The next marker is financial close of the Anthropic project.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Grain Central** · Proposed Kogan data centre sparks mixed views

2 **Private Wealth Daily** · Anthropic signs Western Downs lease with Dexus-backed ADC

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 7 OF 14

Telstra RCS appears in beta for iPhone, encrypted chats included

Telstra is listed as in beta for RCS on iPhone, with end-to-end encrypted messaging part of the test, in the iOS 27.3 beta 1 carrier bundles. No other Australian carrier has any RCS status on the tracker.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

RCS has been on iPhone since iOS 18 in 2024, yet Telstra is so far the only Australian carrier with a beta listing, so customers on other networks stay on SMS or MMS when messaging Telstra users.

Telstra now shows as in beta for RCS on iPhone in the iOS RCS tracker, which was refreshed on 3 November 2026 with carrier bundles from the first iOS 27.3 beta. A second tracker list, covering RCS end-to-end encryption, also marks Telstra as in beta, meaning encrypted conversations are being tested too. The bundle is listed as Telstra_au 73.7.3.

At this stage only people on the iOS 27.3 beta, which Apple put out to developers on 3 November, can use it. The feature sits inside Apple's Messages app rather than a separate download, and Telstra has said customers will not need to opt in because it will be switched on by default. Encryption for RCS chats between iPhone and Android arrived with iOS 26.5, and a lock icon marks protected conversations.

Telstra's Android rollout begins on 16 November 2026. Its support page confirms that start date and names end-to-end encryption as a benefit, but says nothing about iPhone. The iPhone launch is expected after Apple's December iOS update, which MacRumors expects to be iOS 27.3, and the whole rollout is scheduled to finish by the end of 2026. A beta listing does not guarantee a release date, so the December timing rests on when Apple ships iOS 27.3.

WhistleOut reports that Belong, Everyday Mobile and ALDI Mobile customers are covered. The PC Doctor, reporting on Telstra's announcement, said there is no plan change or paid add-on. RCS depends on mobile data or Wi-Fi, and messages drop back to SMS when there is no connection.

The main limitation is interoperability with other networks. EFTM reports that Telstra's RCS currently works only between Telstra customers, and messages to Optus or Vodafone customers revert to SMS or MMS. Telstra is the only Australian carrier with any RCS status on the tracker, while Optus, Vodafone, Lebara and Pivotel remain marked as unsupported. Optus says RCS is under

consideration for its longer-term roadmap and TPG Telecom says it is reviewing RCS for Vodafone, though neither has given a date.

REPORTING FROM

1 **SFF GEEK** · Telstra RCS is now in beta on iPhone with iOS 27.3, and end-to-end encryption is included

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

FIBRE, SUBSEA & INTERCONNECT 8 OF 14

Telstra brings Perth-Sydney Aura Network route into service

Telstra has switched on the Perth-Sydney route of its Aura Network, linking Western Australia to the eastern states by high-capacity fibre. A Telstra-commissioned Oxford Economics study estimates the economic effect of Aura routes out to FY2040.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Transport capacity between Western Australia and the east is a constraint when data centres, cloud services and data-intensive workloads grow, and the new route gives Western Australian businesses a defined high-capacity path east.

Telstra has put the Perth-Sydney route of its Aura Network into operation, connecting Western Australia with the eastern states over a high-capacity fibre link. The company expects demand from AI, cloud services and other data-intensive applications. Telstra describes the route as carrying large volumes of data between Western Australia, the eastern states and international markets.

IT Boltwise reported that Steven Worrall, Telstra's digital infrastructure head, said the connection creates added conditions for the next phase of growth in the region. According to Telstra's account, Western Australia already has strong industries in mining, defence and professional and technical services.

A study by Oxford Economics, commissioned by Telstra, attempts to quantify the potential effect. In its accelerated scenario, the study has Western Australia's digital economy growing sharply between FY2025 and FY2040. It also estimates a possible contribution to Western Australia's gross regional product and to employment by FY2040 from the already committed Perth-Sydney and Perth-Adelaide routes. If a Darwin-Perth link were also built, those

estimates would rise.

The outlet framed the build as part of Telstra's push to position its infrastructure business as a platform for AI and cloud use, beyond mobile and traditional carrier services. It said the Perth-Sydney route is a concrete step against which the benefit of Aura can be measured in day-to-day operation, whether or not further routes follow.

REPORTING FROM

1 **IT BOLTWISE x Super Intelligence** · Telstra setzt Aura Network aus: Perth-Sydney-Route treibt WA Digitalwachstum

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 9 OF 14

Aussie Broadband moves 350,000 AGL telco services onto its platforms

Aussie Broadband is shifting about 350,000 broadband and mobile services it took over from AGL's telecommunications arm, and gains a five-year marketing arrangement that opens AGL's customer base to it.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

More retail broadband customers now sit with a challenger, and the deal tests whether pairing energy and telco can lower acquisition costs and churn. With wholesale costs largely set nationally, a bigger customer base spreads fixed costs further.

Aussie Broadband (ASX:ABB) is transferring roughly 350,000 broadband and mobile services onto its own systems following its purchase of AGL's telco operations. The transaction was signed in February and closed in June 2026. Aussie Broadband issued new shares as payment, giving the energy retailer an equity holding that can increase if performance targets are hit.

The business came with retail customers on broadband, mobile and fixed voice. When Aussie Broadband reported results in August, it had already moved over 116,000 broadband and 30,000 mobile services. It expects the remaining transfers to wrap up in the second quarter of FY27.

Dealroom points to AGL's five-year marketing partnership as the real strategic prize, since it opens up the retailer's large customer base to Aussie Broadband. Because power and telco are both recurring monthly household bills, packaging them together can cut the cost of signing up customers and reduce churn.

The AGL deal follows a period of fast expansion. Aussie Broadband finished migrating the More and Tangerine customers in June. It posted FY26 underlying EBITDA growth of 19.6 per cent to US$107 million and guided to US$132.6 million to US$139.1 million for FY27. The company has also widened its Western Australian operations.

Migration is the riskiest stage of a telco acquisition, because billing, provisioning and mobile numbers all have to move cleanly, and any disruption could send customers to competitors. Management said it expected some churn but that the process was going well. The extended schedule suggests a preference for a smooth experience over a fast one.

Dealroom says the acquisition places Aussie Broadband among the leading national broadband providers, behind only the big incumbents. A larger base helps because wholesale costs are largely set on a national basis, spreading fixed costs over more customers. Whether the energy channel delivers lasting growth once migration ends is the open question.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Dealroom.co** · Aussie Broadband bets on energy-bundled growth after AGL telco takeover

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

DATA CENTRES 10 OF 14

Melbourne edges Sydney on data centre build cost in Turner & Townsend index

Turner & Townsend's 2026 Data Centre Construction Index puts Melbourne at $10.58 per watt and Sydney at $10.74, both well under Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong. The firm cautions that Australia should not be seen as a low-cost market.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The index suggests Australian build costs are competitive against major Asian hubs, but the report warns that land competition and grid connection delays remain constraints for investors planning capacity.

Building a data centre in Melbourne costs slightly less than in Sydney, according to Turner & Townsend's 2026 Data Centre Construction Index. Among 62 markets, Sydney placed 41st and Melbourne 45th, at $10.74 and $10.58 per watt respectively, using a typical 60 MW design as the basis. Auckland came in at 17th and $12.69 per watt, making it the priciest of the three Australian and New Zealand cities covered. The index draws on more than 500 projects that are under way or recently finished, plus a poll of over 400 industry experts.

Both Australian cities sit well below the main Asian hubs. Tokyo was the most expensive market for a fourth straight year at $18.28 per watt, with Osaka next at $17.15. Singapore was fourth at $15.39 per watt, Hong Kong 14th at $12.97 and Jakarta 26th at $11.96. The index put the gap down to differences in contractor depth, supply chains and project volumes. At the cheap end of the table, Shanghai led with the lowest figure, $5.79 per watt, and Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City followed at $6.83 and $8.32.

Simon Kearney, Data Centre Lead, ANZ, at Turner & Townsend, said Sydney and Melbourne benefit from "deeper supply chains, a larger pool of experienced contractors and a steady pipeline of projects, all of which helps control costs." He added that this does not make Australia a low-cost option, pointing to power constraints and competition for suitable land. On New Zealand, Kearney said the smaller market has fewer specialist contractors, equipment must be shipped long distances and skilled labour is scarce, which partly explains Auckland's ranking.

Globally, the report found construction costs kept rising as AI-driven demand strained land, power, materials and labour. Of those surveyed, 56 per cent named power a major obstacle to delivery, while 52 per cent said utility

connections typically take one to two years and 32 per cent reported more than two years. Some 81 per cent said skilled labour in their region was moderately or highly constrained. More than half, 52 per cent, reported cost increases above 6 per cent in 2026, and about one in five reported inflation above 15 per cent.

Respondents expect some easing in 2027, though not a return to earlier conditions; 28 per cent expect inflation of between 1 and 5 per cent. The report tied much of the current activity to larger AI facilities, which it said need different delivery approaches, more technical specialists and contracting models that allow for higher risk and tighter schedules. Some 52 per cent said most of their 2027 projects would be data centres supporting AI workloads.

REPORTING FROM

1 **DataCenterNews Asia Pacific** · Melbourne cheaper than Sydney for data centre build

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 11 OF 14

NSW and nbn complete $5.9m fixed wireless build for 900 premises in Western NSW

A $5.9 million fixed wireless project along the Narromine Cobar corridor is now giving around 900 homes and businesses near five towns an alternative to satellite. The NSW Government contributed $5.3 million, with nbn as delivery partner.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The project shows state co-investment with nbn being used to move regional premises off satellite and onto fixed wireless, with further sites in the $76 million program still to go live by the end of 2027.

A $5.9 million fixed wireless project in Western NSW has connected around 900 homes and businesses that previously relied largely on satellite, the NSW Government announced on 4 November 2026. The Minns Government put in $5.3 million, and nbn delivered the build.

The work added two new towers and new fixed wireless equipment on three existing towers along the Narromine Cobar corridor. It improves coverage in areas around Cobar, Narromine, Nyngan, Trangie and Warren. Some premises in those towns already had nbn fibre, but many properties in the surrounding areas depended on satellite, and the new infrastructure gives them the option of fixed wireless instead. The government said this can deliver faster download speeds and support uses such as working from home, video calls, streaming and Wi-Fi calling.

The project was delivered under the NSW Government's Regional Digital Connectivity Program, in partnership with nbn. It forms part of a $76 million partnership to bring faster, more reliable internet to nearly 12,000 homes and small businesses across more than 49 regional locations. Other communities due to benefit include Taralga, Binda, Goolgowi, Wilcannia and areas around Narrabri, with services expected to go live for residents by the end of 2027.

Minister for Regional and Western NSW Tara Moriarty said the investment would give more than 900 homes and businesses around the five towns a connection they could rely on. She said, "Reliable internet is no longer a luxury."

Grace Walker, owner and chief instructor of Narromine flight school Flying with Grace, said she had often needed to tether her laptop to her phone before the upgrade. Walker said she did much of her administrative work from home after hours because the office connection was unreliable. Trangie farmer Mark Dugan said the wireless service gave "security of connection" and removed the dropouts that had disrupted work on the computer.

Residents and businesses can check eligibility for an nbn upgrade through the nbn Check Address tool.

REPORTING FROM

1 **NSW Government** · $5.9 million internet project connects 900 homes and businesses across Western NSW

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 12 OF 14

NBN Co says network is ready for GTA VI and expects record download volume

NBN Co told TechRadar it is confident the network can handle demand for the 212GB Grand Theft Auto VI, with preloading expected to prevent a peak-hour record but possibly lift total volume over 7 to 8 days.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The preload approach shows NBN Co and content distributors coordinating to flatten demand from very large downloads, shifting the planning challenge from peak-hour capacity to sustained volume over a week.

NBN Co says the national broadband network is ready for the launch of Rockstar's Grand Theft Auto VI, a game that requires a 212GB download. The wholesale operator expects the release to push total download volume to a record across the preload and launch period, even if it does not set a new single-hour peak.

An NBN Co spokesperson told TechRadar: "We've planned for major download events like this, and we're confident the NBN network is ready for the increased demand." The company said it works with content distributors to model the effect of big releases and to spread downloads over a longer period instead of letting everyone start at once. According to NBN Co, that has changed the traffic shape, with demand now building earlier in the day rather than surging when people get home from work.

Gaming has driven some of the largest peaks on the network. NBN Co said a game download release last year coincided with a record peak of 32.91 terabits per second. It said that was approximately 30% higher than baseline traffic, with almost 8Tbps of additional demand during the busiest hour. The company did not identify the game.

Preloading is central to the plan. TechRadar reported that preloading begins on 10 November for digital preorders and on 12 November for the code-in-box version. "Preloading is good news for gamers and good news for the network," NBN Co told TechRadar. NBN Co said the impact of major launches has fallen over time because distributors now stagger downloads and updates.

NBN Co does not expect a record for any single hour or day. The company said it expects increased traffic across the preload and release period, "which could result in a record-breaking download volume across that 7 – 8-day period".

NBN Co also pointed to home setups as a source of slow downloads, recommending households place routers somewhere elevated and central and check whether an older router is limiting speeds on faster plans. It also suggested reviewing whether the current plan still suits the household. TechRadar noted that game distribution servers struggling with demand could still limit speeds regardless of the connection.

REPORTING FROM

1 **TechRadar** · Could the GTA 6 launch break the Australian internet? We asked NBN Co to find out

2 **Circuit Observer** · NBN Co says Australian broadband is ready for 212GB GTA 6

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 13 OF 14

ZTE reportedly weighs US$5.6b handset carve-out with Shanghai state-owned partner

ZTE is reportedly negotiating a US$5.6 billion joint venture for its mainstream smartphone business, involving a Shanghai state-owned enterprise. ZTE makes handsets sold under the Telstra and Optus brands, according to ChannelNews.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The report puts supplier ownership, rather than manufacturing location, in front of Telstra and Optus, which are both subject to Australian telecommunications security obligations. ChannelNews said a significant change in supplier ownership could warrant a fresh assessment of commercial, technical and security risks.

ZTE is reportedly negotiating a restructuring that would move its mainstream consumer smartphone operations into a new joint venture with a Chinese internet company and a Shanghai state-owned enterprise, ChannelNews reported on 4 November 2026. The transaction is valued at US$5.6 billion, which ChannelNews put at approximately A$8 billion. ZTE makes a significant proportion of the handsets sold under the Telstra and Optus brands.

The internet company, which is not named, is reportedly prepared to contribute US$1.1 billion. Talks continue over the final valuation, ownership structure and control of the new business. Sources familiar with the negotiations told ChannelNews that they began earlier this year and that the parties reached broad agreement on a restructuring model in September. An announcement had been targeted for later in November, though the deal structure and shareholder arrangements remain unresolved.

Under the proposal, routers, mobile broadband equipment and home terminal devices would stay with the ZTE parent company, and the RedMagic gaming phone business would sit outside the deal. The new venture would focus on mainstream handsets, including international operations that supply carriers such as Telstra and Optus. A subsidiary named Shanghai Shenqi Jiyuan Intelligent Terminal Company has reportedly been set up, with smartphone staff said to have been transferred into it.

If completed, the split could leave the two carriers dealing with separate corporate entities: the joint venture for house-brand phones and the ZTE parent for modems, routers and home broadband gear. ChannelNews said that raises questions over supply agreements, software support, certification, security responsibilities and accountability. It also pointed to possible complexity around software updates, firmware maintenance and security patches.

ChannelNews said earlier this year that ZTE's Australian website listed 11 ZTE-made handsets sold under the Telstra brand and 11 under Optus, along with hotspots, hubs and modems. It noted that many of the devices are marketed mainly under the carrier brand rather than ZTE's.

The report recalled that in 2018 a US denial order over ZTE's breach of an earlier sanctions settlement led Telstra to suspend sales of 22 ZTE-manufactured products. Sales resumed after the US restrictions were lifted. Nikkei later reported that ZTE had considered selling its smartphone operations, and Huawei and Oppo denied involvement in acquisition talks.

ChannelNews compared the plan with the 2020 sale of Honor by Huawei to a consortium backed by a Shenzhen government-linked entity. It said the level of state ownership, voting rights and operational control in the ZTE deal has yet to be established, and that a state-owned shareholder does not automatically mean direct government control of product development or customer data. It added that Australia's exclusion of high-risk vendors from 5G networks is not a ban on Chinese-made consumer smartphones.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ChannelNews** · EXCLUSIVE: Chinese Government Entity Set To Gain Control Of Telstra And Optus Smartphone Supplier In $5.6 Billion Shake-Up

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 14 OF 14

Citi sees upside to Superloop subscriber growth and keeps buy on Telstra

Citi says September web traffic and app downloads point to upside risks for Superloop and Aussie Broadband subscriber forecasts, and it has reiterated its buy rating on Telstra.

Best Effort desk · Thu 5 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Citi's view ties retail subscriber momentum at the challenger ISPs to app and traffic data, and links satellite spectrum activity to the value of terrestrial spectrum holdings such as Telstra's.

Citi has flagged potential upside to subscriber growth forecasts at Superloop and Aussie Broadband, while keeping its buy rating on Telstra, according to a note reported by Stockopedia on Thursday 5 November 2026. The broker said September was a stronger month for Australian telecom operators.

Citi said flagship brands Telstra and Optus recorded higher web traffic and app downloads than in the previous month, which it said may have been helped by the latest iPhone launch. It said the app download and traffic data point to upside risks to subscriber growth forecasts at Superloop and Aussie Broadband, though it remains neutral on Aussie Broadband.

Citi described recent weakness in Superloop shares as a buying opportunity ahead of the company's AGM trading update. Year to date, Superloop shares are down 27 per cent and Aussie Broadband has lost 17.7 per cent, while Telstra is down 2.1 per cent.

On Telstra, the broker reiterated its buy rating, saying concerns around SpaceX's spectrum purchase highlight the strategic value of terrestrial spectrum holdings. Citi also said it believes the market underappreciates potential upside to Telstra's FY27 EBITDA guidance.

REPORTING FROM

1 **stockopedia.com** · SINGAPORE TELECOMMUNICATIONS | Citi sees upside for Superloop subscriber growth, keeps buy on Telstra

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