Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Monday 16 November 2026

- Optus and Telstra set the tone on Australian carrier strategy.
- Optus cut its consumer postpaid plan range from 511 to 239 in the half to 30 September 2026, lifting mobile service revenue 2.9 per cent while 235,000 connections left, and Singtel raised its full-year guidance.
- Telstra said its Aura Network has more than 9,000 km of fibre built, with Google, AWS, Firmus and Microsoft signed.
- CDC's Kemps Creek application rises to about 1.4GW.

13 stories · **23 min** reading · **20** sources · Online at besteffort.au/editions/2026-11-16

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CARRIERS & NETWORKS 1 OF 13

Optus trims postpaid plan range to 239 from 511 as pricing lifts mobile earnings

Optus cut its consumer postpaid mobile plans by 53.2 per cent in the half to 30 September 2026, and higher prices pushed mobile service revenue up 2.9 per cent even as 235,000 connections left the base.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Optus is growing mobile revenue through postpaid pricing and a far smaller plan range while its connection base contracts, and wholesale and connected-device exits cloud the demand picture. Higher average revenue does not show customers will accept further increases, and the effect of the operational changes on reliability is unproven.

Optus reduced the number of consumer postpaid mobile plans it sells from 511 to 239 in the six months to 30 September 2026, a cut of 272 plans, or 53.2 per cent. The carrier disclosed the change in half-year results released on Friday 13 November 2026.

Broadband News reported that Optus EBITDA rose 5.4 per cent to $1.251 billion and EBIT climbed 13.7 per cent to $322 million. Operating revenue slipped 1.5 per cent to $4.028 billion, which the company blamed on weaker phone sales and lower enterprise fixed revenue. Home revenue dropped 3 per cent, which Optus links to fewer modem sales and the sale of Optus Sport.

Mobile service revenue grew 2.9 per cent from a year earlier, and average monthly revenue per mobile user rose 3.9 per cent, helped by postpaid price increases. Service revenue reached $2,186 million versus $2,125 million, while equipment sales fell to $571 million from $681 million. Total mobile sales therefore eased by $49 million to $2.757 billion, as the $61 million service gain was smaller than the $110 million equipment drop.

The mobile base shrank by 235,000 connections compared with March, mainly because a wholesale postpaid contract ended and fewer connected devices were in use. Connected devices lost 74,000 after Optus withdrew bundled services that earned little per user, while prepaid gained 23,000 connections, mostly through amaysim. Monthly retail postpaid churn averaged 1.2 per cent, level with the same half a year earlier, though Optus leaves postpaid-to-prepaid transfers out of that measure. The filing does not break down how individual customers were moved between plans, so how bills changed across the base is unclear.

Optus took another 65 formerly licensed stores into company ownership, bringing the total transitioned to 137, and the filing ties the moves to about 900 extra staff. Chief executive Stephen Rue said Optus was "simplifying the business", and his statement also noted higher spending on compliance, risk, security and capability. Savings on equipment and content costs absorbed part of that outlay.

On network operations, Optus said it has returned key operations and major incident management to Australia. It also said it switched on its 1,000th upgraded regional 5G site in the half and plans over 1,500 regional upgrades by the end of 2028. Parent company Singtel reported underlying half-year profit of S$1.49 billion, up 10 per cent, and lifted its full-year earnings guidance.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Bez Kabli** · Optus cuts mobile plan catalogue by 53% as higher prices lift service revenue

2 **Broadband News** · Optus half-year results: earnings up, 235,000 services lost

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

DATA CENTRES 2 OF 13

CDC folds six buildings into one Kemps Creek application at 1.4GW

CDC has lodged a revised planning application taking its Kemps Creek campus in western Sydney from 144MW to a combined peak power requirement of about 1.4GW across six buildings. The two outlets differ on address, data hall counts and capacity terminology.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A single application for a 1.4GW peak-power campus puts a large western Sydney grid connection and planning question before authorities at once, rather than in stages. The proposed capacity is not operating capacity, and the EIS process and timetable will determine how much of it is built.

CDC has revised its planning application for Kemps Creek in western Sydney, lifting the proposal from a single building of 144MW to a six-building campus with a combined peak power requirement of about 1.4GW. Telecom Gazette reported that the revised SEARS application was lodged in November 2026 and covers the six buildings, an on-site substation and the whole campus in one submission. realestatesource reported that the consolidation followed a request

from Penrith City Council.

The original filing sought approval for one four-storey building with 144MW across 34,000 square metres. CDC had described that building as stage one of a wider campus, with later phases to come through further filings. The revised scheme replaces that approach with buildings KC1 to KC6, each two storeys with a maximum height of 25.5 metres, against 35.2 metres in the original design.

The sources give different site details. Telecom Gazette put the site at 859-901 Mamre Road and 117.5 hectares, while realestatesource gave 845-901 Mamre Road and 117.47 hectares, including an extra 29.14 hectare allotment at 845-857 Mamre Road. realestatesource said the original holding was 88.33 hectares; Telecom Gazette said 88.4 hectares.

Both outlets give the same split by building: 168MW each for KC1, KC2 and KC3, 144MW for KC4, 120MW for KC5 and 240MW for KC6. realestatesource described these as 1008MW of information technology capacity, with 1.4GW the combined peak power requirement, and said the buildings would hold 29 data halls. Telecom Gazette counted 19 data halls and described the figures as proposed capacity, not operating capacity.

realestatesource reported that CDC intends to build in stages, starting with KC1 to KC3, which would provide 504MW of IT capacity, along with the substation, an administration building and a temporary car park. KC4 to KC6 would follow. A single substation and one Transgrid connection would serve the whole campus, sized for the ultimate capacity. The application also relocates a planned collector street that would have bisected the site to the western perimeter.

CDC will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement covering the expanded campus, including cumulative impacts and the proposed electricity connection. The original application, lodged in July 2026 according to realestatesource, proposed a $1.8 billion development with 280 ongoing positions, and revised cost and employment estimates have not been established. Telecom Gazette said the update gives no construction or commissioning timetable for Kemps Creek.

CDC reports more than 600MW in operation and development across Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and New Zealand, with a further 1.6GW in its pipeline to 2034. In Sydney, Eastern Creek has four live buildings, and Marsden Park, where CDC broke ground in late 2024, could offer more than 504MW. realestatesource said Marsden Park received approval for 504MW last November.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Telecom Gazette** · CDC Expands Kemps Creek Data Center Plan to 1.4GW

2 **realestatesource** · CDC rolls six data centres into one application – realestatesource

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

DATA CENTRES 3 OF 13

SA energy minister backs gas to firm power for proposed AI data centres

South Australian Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis says he is "absolutely fine" with gas helping run large data centres, drawing a backflip charge from the Greens and conservationists and putting the state at odds with Canberra's renewables-only standards.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

South Australia's position adds a third jurisdiction to those seeking gas-backed data centres, setting up a test for the federal renewables-backed national standards while the state finalises its own data centre legislation.

South Australian Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis has told the ABC he is comfortable with gas-fired generation being used to help power large data centres proposed for regional parts of the state. The government is accused of a backflip, because its Data Centre Strategy, released just under five months ago, centred on the state's renewable energy.

Koutsantonis said the government supported gas to firm data centres in the same way it supports gas firming renewable energy now. He said data centres need large amounts of energy continuously, and gas could guarantee supply when "the sun stops shining or wind stops blowing". Asked about environmental impacts, he said that if data centres are not allowed to use gas, "they'll use diesel or they'll use coal".

The strategy said South Australia could produce the clean energy needed to power the AI boom, and under it new data centres must supply their own power. RenewEconomy reported that the strategy cites firming as a consideration but does not name gas, pointing instead to options such as long-duration batteries.

The debate comes a day after Quantum DC paused its plans for a 1,200-megawatt data centre at Tungkillo in the Adelaide Hills. The developer had estimated about 20 per cent of the energy would come from a gas power station on its 220-hectare site, with renewables supplying the rest. At least three other major projects are planned, including Iren's $10 billion, 800MW facility at Bundey near Robertstown, and Firmus sites near Tailem Bend and Port Augusta.

Conservation Foundation of SA chief executive Kirsty Bevan said gas would be a "step backwards" for the government and the climate. Greens leader Rob Simms called the position "outrageous" and proposed a moratorium on data centre construction in the state. Data Centres Australia chief executive Belinda Dennett defended the need for gas, but said renewables would still have a substantial role. Dennett said that if the industry waits until the energy transition is complete, "this investment in data centres will have moved elsewhere".

The stance also cuts across federal policy. Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen has said national data centre standards would allow no exemptions for Queensland and the Northern Territory unless gas supply can be shown to be cheaper than renewables, with the Australian Energy Regulator to assess claims case by case. RenewEconomy said it approached Bowen's office for comment. The SA government is developing a regulatory framework for AI data centres, with dedicated legislation due in parliament this year, and parties including the Liberals, One Nation and the Greens united in the upper house to set up a parliamentary inquiry.

REPORTING FROM

1. **ABC News** · SA gives green light for gas to help power future data centres
2. **RenewEconomy** · Energy minister for Australia’s most renewable state says he’s “absolutely fine” with gas-firmed data centres
3. **Energy Source & Distribution** · South Australia joins states wanting gas-backed data centres

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 4 OF 13

nbn launches FibreOne single-fibre option for new developments

nbn has released nbn FibreOne, a product that puts broadband, nbn FibreTV and building management traffic on one fibre in eligible new developments. Managed Service Providers will deliver the services, and nbn is still signing them up.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Developers can now put broadband and building systems on one nbn fibre network, and Managed Service Providers take on the job of delivering connected-building services over nbn's infrastructure.

NBN Co has released nbn FibreOne, a fibre product for eligible new developments that lets broadband and connected building services run over the same infrastructure. One fibre network architecture carries broadband, nbn FibreTV and building management services, which nbn presents as an easier route than installing and running several separate networks.

Until now, systems such as security, CCTV, intercoms, access control, heating and cooling and alarms had to run on a network apart from nbn's broadband infrastructure. nbn says that split pushed up costs, infrastructure needs and complexity for developments. According to nbn, FibreOne allows several services to share the same fibre and support what it calls an Integrated Communications Network, or ICN.

nbn said it built the product because of rising demand for connected communities, where a wider set of services needs dependable and scalable connectivity. The company says the approach is meant to lower developers' infrastructure costs, ease deployment and operations, and let them add building services later as needs change. The launch follows industry consultation, with a Product Consultation Paper released in October 2025 and a Closure Paper in March 2026.

nbn Executive General Manager New Developments Andrew Walsh said FibreOne "can help reduce duplicated infrastructure and give property developers greater flexibility as they plan for the evolving needs of their communities". Walsh said nbn is concentrating on the underlying network, and is signing up Managed Service Providers to deliver and manage the connected-building solutions that developers and communities use.

The product is designed mainly for new developments such as apartments, build-to-rent projects, retirement living and land lease communities. Building management services can include access control, CCTV, intercoms and energy management systems. FibreOne is offered only where the needed infrastructure has been deployed, participating Managed Service Providers supply the services, and features may differ between providers. nbn said FibreOne does not replace the nbn broadband service available at a premises.

REPORTING FROM

1 **NBN Co** · nbn FibreOne launches for new developments

2 **Content + Technology** · nbn Launches Single-Fibre Solution for New Buildings - Content + Technology

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

DATA CENTRES 5 OF 13

Insite DC lodges plan for four-building data centre campus in Tarneit

Start-up developer Insite DC has applied to the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning for a four-building campus on Boundary Road, about 25 km west of the Melbourne CBD. It has not disclosed the campus capacity, its power status or a completion date.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The filing brings a new entrant into a market dominated by a handful of incumbents, and Telecom Gazette said it points to future colocation supply where availability has been tight. With two developers holding land on one Tarneit road, growth in Melbourne's west is clustering around power and fibre infrastructure.

Insite DC, an Australian developer, has put a planning application to the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning for a campus of four buildings at Tarneit, around 25 km west of Melbourne's Central Business District. Telecom Gazette reported on 14 November 2026 that the filing is the company's first concrete planning step, and that the business did not exist two years ago.

The site is made up of four adjoining lots on Boundary Road, numbered 1235 to 1265, in the City of Wyndham. Trucks currently park on the land. Telecom Gazette said turning logistics and industrial sites into data centres has become a

common pattern in Melbourne's west, where available power and big lots attract hyperscale projects.

Insite DC was founded last year and is a newcomer rather than an established colocation operator. It says it intends to build in both Melbourne and Sydney. Sydney-based investment firm Alceon backed the company earlier this year, although the size and structure of the investment have not been disclosed. No full pipeline has been published, but the company's website points to about 100MW of planned capacity across six sites. Telecom Gazette said that number is best read as a company target, not contracted or financed capacity.

Another developer is active on the same road. PwC data indicates that Stack, which is headquartered in the US, previously bought land at 1005 Boundary Road, which it markets as its MEL03 campus. The parcel had been earmarked for an industrial scheme called the Tarneit Logistics Hub, and a substation is planned there. Telecom Gazette said substation plans can decide where operators build in the western corridor, because queues for grid connections, not land, limit new capacity.

Insite DC has not said how much capacity the Tarneit campus will have, where its power supply stands or when it aims to finish. Telecom Gazette said that in Victoria, planning approval usually comes a year or more before any commitment to build. The application will now go through the Victorian planning process.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Telecom Gazette** · Insite DC Plans Four-Building Data Center Campus Near Melbourne

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

DATA CENTRES 6 OF 13

Tasmania to make data centre operators run their own community benefit funds

The Tasmanian government's statement of expectations would require each data centre proponent to pay $3,000 per megawatt of contracted energy a year into a fund it administers itself. Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced the rules on Friday 13 November 2026.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The rules put a per-megawatt price on community contributions for Tasmanian data centres and tie energy sourcing to new renewable projects, which sets expectations for developers weighing sites in the state. Questions remain over how the funds will be governed, given that each company would administer its own.

Tasmanian data centre proponents would each run their own community benefit fund under a proposal from the state government, ABC News reported. Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced the government's statement of expectations for data centres on Friday 13 November 2026. Once a facility is operating, its proponent would have to pay $3,000 a year for each megawatt of contracted energy into its own fund.

For Firmus, the state's largest AI data centre company, the 104MW St Leonards facility would contribute $312,000 a year. Firmus also has a proposed 288MW centre at Long Reach near Bell Bay and a 40MW centre at Wesley Vale in the north-west.

Rockliff announced plans for a single local fund last month but did not release its cost or structure. At Friday's press conference he and Industry Minister Felix Ellis described one fund governed by "local people" and "local representatives" that would allocate grants to community groups and other eligible organisations. They did not say there would be several funds or that the companies would control them. The statement of expectations sets out "transparent governance arrangements" and requires public reporting.

Rockliff announced the fund in the days after Firmus's IPO was scrapped, which ABC News said unravelled over investor concerns about the company's finances, expansion plans and social licence. He said the expectations document would be reviewed within six months. Rockliff said data centres were a good investment for Tasmania, but "the guardrails are important, particularly when it comes to community expectations, when it comes to transparency and when it comes to investing back in the local community." Ellis said proponents that

did not follow the expectations "won't be able to proceed".

The government has faced pressure to tighten regulation of the sector since Firmus unveiled plans for multiple data centres in the state. Opponents have raised concerns about where the energy and water for the facilities will come from. For St Leonards, state energy company Aurora has contracted supply through the initial stage but has no long-term deal. Energy Minister Nick Duigan said proponents were "required" to partner with new renewable energy projects, and could do so "through" Hydro Tasmania, which would contract new renewable providers and act as an aggregator supplying a firmed product.

Greens MP Tabatha Badger said she was "very curious" about how the funds would be run. Russell Kelly, chief executive of technology advocate TasICT, said the expectations "put the onus" on proponents to build community trust, and that the proposed amount was in line with other proposals in Australia.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ABC News** · AI data centres to self-administer funds in Tasmanian community deal

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 7 OF 13

Telstra tells Deutsche Bank conference Aura Network is two-thirds built

Telstra said at a Deutsche Bank investor event on 12 November 2026 that its Aura Network has more than 9,000 km of fibre in the ground, with Google, AWS, Firmus and Microsoft signed as long-term customers.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The update shows Telstra positioning fibre and subsea capacity for hyperscaler demand while it argues for investment incentives in the pending outdoor mobile obligation, satellite spectrum and mobile inquiry processes.

Telstra told a Deutsche Bank virtual investor conference on 12 November 2026 that its Aura Network is around two-thirds built, with more than 9,000 km of fibre in the ground and six routes ready for service. Google, AWS, Firmus and Microsoft have signed long-term contracts across Telstra's infrastructure assets, according to a summary of the event.

Telstra said its combined strategic investment in the Aura Network and Viasat is expected to total around $1.8 billion from FY23 to FY28. The company said Aura's sales pipeline rose significantly in the six months to June 2026, and it is supporting an expected mid-teens internal rate of return and a payback of about nine years. In FY26 it also expanded subsea capacity through partnerships with Google and Keppel, and finished building eight satellite ground stations. Telstra put its NBN infrastructure income at more than $1.1 billion a year, which it described as government-backed, recurring and CPI-indexed over a remaining average contract period of 21 years.

On strategy, Telstra said its Connected Future 30 plan began in FY26 and targets becoming the number one choice for connectivity in Australia. It said FY26 digital upgrades added an AI-powered assistant, self-service features and AI search, and that all consumer customers have moved to the new digital platform. Telstra said mobile network investment over five years exceeded $9.5 billion, including $3.8 billion in regional areas, and that nearly 1,200 sites received 5G Advanced upgrades in FY26.

Telstra launched satellite mobile text messaging in June 2025 and later extended it to select apps, and it views satellite and terrestrial networks as complementary. It said low earth orbit satellite services extend coverage beyond terrestrial networks for outdoor users with a view of the sky, and that early partnerships give it strategic optionality. On regulation, Telstra said it is engaging on the proposed Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation, satellite spectrum and the Mobile Services Inquiry, seeking to protect competition and customer outcomes while preserving investment incentives.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Telstra Group** · Telstra Group (TLS) Deutsche Bank Virtual Investor Conference Summary

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

Singtel lifts full-year guidance as Optus helps underlying profit rise 10%

Singtel reported a 55 per cent fall in first-half net profit to S$1.54 billion after last year's exceptional gains, but underlying profit rose 10 per cent and the group raised its full-year OpCo EBIT growth guidance.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Optus is one of the units Singtel credits for the stronger result, with pricing and prepaid growth lifting its mobile service revenue. Singtel's push into data centres and sovereign AI cloud adds a regional infrastructure competitor in the same field as Australian operators.

Singtel Group reported net profit of S$1.54 billion (US$1.2 billion) for the first half of fiscal 2027, a 55 per cent drop on the same period a year earlier. The fall reflects the absence of exceptional gains last year from the partial sale of its Airtel stake and the merger of Intouch and Gulf Energy. Excluding exceptional items, underlying net profit rose 10 per cent to S$1.49 billion for the half ended September.

Higher EBIT from NCS, Digital InfraCo and Optus drove the result, along with profits from regional associates Airtel and AIS and a first-time dividend from Gulf Development. Operating revenue rose 6 per cent to S$7.29 billion, while EBITDA and OpCo EBIT grew 8 per cent and 9 per cent to S$2.15 billion and S$0.90 billion respectively.

Singtel raised its full-year OpCo EBIT growth guidance from low to mid-single digits to mid to high-single digits. Group CEO Yuen Kuan Moon said in a stock exchange filing that NCS, Digital InfraCo and Optus each achieved double-digit EBIT growth. He added that contributions from regional associates were robust, with broad-based mobile growth helping offset foreign currency headwinds.

In Australia, Singtel Optus lifted mobile service revenue by 2.9 per cent on higher pricing and prepaid growth. Digital InfraCo and NCS now account for around 18 per cent of group EBITDA.

Singtel and KKR have completed the acquisition of STT GDC. Together with its Nxera brand, Singtel now has 950MW of operating data centre capacity, according to Light Reading's account of the results. Singtel said all Nxera capacity in Singapore is contracted, and its Malaysian and Indonesian facilities are due to begin operating by the end of the financial year. Its RE:AI sovereign

cloud has grown with capacity deployed against customer demand, and it recently became the first in APAC to deploy the NVIDIA DGX GB300.

Free cash flow rose 56 per cent to S$2.25 billion on stronger operating cash flow, higher associate dividends and lower capital expenditure. Cash stood at S$3.58 billion and net debt at S$9.03 billion. Yuen said Singtel expects the data centre and AI businesses to make "increasingly meaningful contributions to the group" as they grow.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Light Reading** · Singtel raises full-year outlook despite 55% drop in profit in H1

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

AI INFRASTRUCTURE 9 OF 13

SoftBank, Grab and PETROS commit US$1.85b to two Malaysian AI data centre projects

SoftBank signed joint development agreements with Grab and Sarawak's PETROS covering US$1.85 billion of staged seed capital for two projects, with a long-term target of at least 5GW of AI compute capacity. Sources differ on how the money splits, but agree no customer, site or completion date has been named.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The projects add a staged, milestone-linked funding model to Southeast Asian AI capacity, with power and connectivity still to be settled for Sarawak. Capacity cited Knight Frank figures putting colocation vacancy in Johor at 0.7 per cent, and said authorities have tightened approvals on power and water.

SoftBank Group has signed joint development agreements with Grab and Petroleum Sarawak (PETROS) for two AI infrastructure projects in Malaysia, with a long-term target of at least 5GW of AI compute capacity. Capacity Media reported the agreements cover US$1.85 billion of seed capital, US$1 billion of it from SoftBank. They follow a framework agreement signed in Kuching on 8 October, which only committed the parties to explore the project.

The Sarawak project has US$1 billion in initial seed capital, according to Capacity: US$800 million from SoftBank, which will be majority owner, and US$100 million each from Grab and PETROS. Developing Telecoms described that project as the US$1 billion investment, led by SoftBank, with Grab and PETROS as strategic partners. The Peninsular Malaysia project has US$850 million, Capacity reported, made up of US$650 million from Grab, the founding shareholder and lead developer, and US$200 million from SoftBank. Further funding for the peninsula project is expected to come from third-party equity and non-recourse project financing.

The money will be released in stages, tied to development and customer contract milestones and other closing conditions. The partners will also seek more investors and hyperscaler customers. Grab will contribute digital and AI expertise, while PETROS brings energy and infrastructure development experience, including gas and LNG-to-power work as master developer of the Kuching Low-Carbon Hub. The partners also plan to explore the wider AI value chain, including robotics and local workforce development in Sarawak.

Grab chief executive Anthony Tan said Sarawak's focus on sustainable energy use and long-term vision make it "a natural home for AI infrastructure that can serve all of Southeast Asia". PETROS group chief executive Janin Girie said the project would prepare Sarawak for its next phase of economic transformation beyond oil and gas. SoftBank chairman and chief executive Masayoshi Son said, "AI infrastructure will power the next wave of growth, and Malaysia has the talent and ambition to help lead it".

Several basics remain open. No hyperscaler customer, site, power source or completion date has been named, Capacity reported, and the location of the peninsula project is undisclosed. Capacity noted that Sarawak Energy operates the 2,400MW Bakun and 944MW Murum dams, but PETROS is the energy partner in this deal. On connectivity, Malaysia's deputy communications minister has said the Batam Sarawak Internet Cable System has 48Tbps of capacity, while Telekom Malaysia's SKRM system carries around 9.5Tbps.

The deal arrives as SoftBank reported a net loss of ¥1.12 trillion (US$7.1 billion) for its fiscal second quarter, according to Bloomberg via Capacity. The result included a ¥597.2 billion charge tied to revised procurement plans for power equipment at its US AI data centre projects. Capacity contrasted that with the Malaysian structure, where capital is staged against milestones and shared with partners. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on 24 October that Son had chosen Kuching and Peninsular Malaysia for US$50 billion of AI infrastructure investment, a figure SoftBank has not confirmed.

REPORTING FROM

1. **SpinDepth** · SoftBank, Grab, Petros Put $1.85B Into Malaysia AI
2. **Developing Telecoms** · Softbank, Grab and PETROS invest US$1b in Sarawak AI infrastructure project
3. **Capacity Media** · SoftBank books $3.7bn US data centre loss as it signs $1.85bn Malaysia deal

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

POLICY & REGULATION 10 OF 13

auDA opens consultation on draft .au Licensing Rules changes and transition plan

auDA is seeking public submissions until 15 January 2027 on draft amendments to the .au Licensing Rules and an implementation plan with two options for the transition. The changes follow a Policy Advisory Panel review run across 2025-2026.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The rules govern who can hold and use .au domain names, so registrars, resellers and businesses with .au names have until 15 January 2027 to comment on the changes and on which of the two transition options should apply.

auDA has opened public consultation on proposed amendments to the .au Licensing Rules, together with a proposed plan for implementing them. Submissions close at 5.00pm AEDT on Friday 15 January 2027 and can be lodged through the consultation page on the auDA website.

The draft changes draw on recommendations from the external Policy Advisory Panel, which carried out the Review across 2025-2026 and ran public consultation on key issues concerning the licensing rules. auDA is asking for feedback on how well the proposed changes and the implementation plan give effect to those recommendations.

Two documents are out for comment: a redlined version of the amended rules showing the draft changes that implement the Panel's recommendations, and an implementation plan. The plan sets out the scope of the transition and offers two options for putting the rule changes into effect. auDA has also published an explanatory statement to accompany the consultation.

Once consultation closes, auDA will review all submissions and publish them on its website. Under its Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies, the auDA Board will adopt the policy option that delivers the greatest net benefit to the Australian community. auDA said that benefit may be intangible, such as greater consumer confidence in transacting with entities that use a .au domain name. The organisation expects to share the outcome of the consultation in the first quarter of 2027.

REPORTING FROM

1 **auDA** · Consultation open: draft changes to .au Licensing Rules and implementation

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

FIBRE, SUBSEA & INTERCONNECT 11 OF 13

Thailand's NT seeks THB 16.1 billion for four new international subsea cables

State-owned National Telecom has asked the Thai government for THB 16.1 billion to build four cable systems linking Thailand to Singapore, Europe and Japan. The project is at an early stage, with no feasibility study or design completed.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The proposal shows regional operators and governments in APAC are treating subsea capacity as a requirement for AI, cloud and hyperscale data centre demand, with Singapore and Japan routes named among the targets.

Thailand's state-owned National Telecom (NT) has asked the government for THB 16.1 billion to build a new international submarine cable network, Telecom Review Asia reported on 12 November 2026. The proposal covers four cable systems across three routes, with the aim of improving connectivity to Singapore, Europe and Japan.

NT plans to allocate THB 6.6 billion to two subsea systems to Singapore, THB 4 billion to a system to Europe and THB 5.5 billion to one to Japan. It is seeking the money under the 2026 emergency decree, which deals with the energy crisis and supports Thailand's shift to more sustainable energy.

NT said its existing cables are deteriorating and cannot cope with growing traffic, which it said puts Thailand's competitiveness at risk. The company said the new capacity would replace ageing infrastructure and serve rising demand from artificial intelligence, cloud computing and hyperscale data centres. It also expects the expansion to widen access to high-performance computing for businesses, researchers and startups, and to help fintech, telemedicine and autonomous vehicles.

The project is in early preparation, with no feasibility study completed and no design plans in place. Existing facilities could support the cable landings, but power systems and facilities would need upgrades. Approvals are required from authorities covering telecommunications, maritime activities, fisheries and conservation, including an Initial Environmental Examination for any routes through national parks.

Under the proposed timeline, NT would look for partners, form a consortium and carry out site surveys between October and December 2026. An international tender to select a contractor would follow in early 2027. The later steps are signing a contract, installing the cables, switching on service and formal acceptance, and the schedule singles out September 2027. Under the spending plan, the Singapore segment would be finished by June 2027, while the Europe and Japan segments are slated for September. Delivery depends on securing funding, project preparation, partner selection and approvals.

On commercial terms, the proposal sets out payments at signing, during installation and on acceptance. NT already operates nine international submarine cable systems and said it is ready to run the new network once built.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Telecom Review Asia** · Thailand’s NT Proposes THB 16.1 Billion Submarine Cable Network Expansion

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

NZ 111 system called a fundamental risk as replacement options slip to February

Options to replace New Zealand's 111 emergency call system, which police reports describe as increasingly fragile, have been pushed from July to February, RNZ reported. Spark, which answers initial 111 calls, says it supports a review that could move that function into the public sector.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The review could decide whether a telco keeps running the first stage of New Zealand's emergency calls, and the slipped timetable leaves the 2027-28 replacement date in question.

Replacement options for New Zealand's 111 emergency call system were due to Police Minister Mark Mitchell by July this year but have been delayed until February, RNZ reported on 12 November 2026. The delay comes despite police reports that describe the system's fragility and governance as a fundamental risk to emergency response. Police reports have detailed deaths and injuries linked to system constraints or failures for several years.

A briefing to Mitchell from a year ago, newly released, said the system was vulnerable in seven key ways. They include a legislative framework described as fragmented and outdated, no single agency overseeing the system, and a telco acting as first point of contact, which the briefing called a "very uncommon practice internationally". The others are barriers for rural, disabled, non-voice or non-mainstream language users, limited ability to respond to innovation and threats such as cyber attack, and infrastructure vulnerable in big storms. The briefing also flagged a risk that the public would lose trust in the system.

The system can carry only voice calls, not text, a limit RNZ linked to its 1990s technology built on a 1950s model. Documents released to RNZ under the Official Information Act described a case in which a woman was stabbed to death by a partner who overheard her 111 call. In another, a man drowned while an ambulance and paramedic travelled to the scene, because police and Surf Rescue at the beach never received the call.

The briefing said automated calls from mobile apps, personal alarms, smart watches and cars were increasingly crowding the channel. It cited police analysis that 75 to 89 per cent of Apple Crash Detection autonomous calls were not emergencies. It warned that no regulatory controls exist to ensure only genuine emergencies come through, so responders may be diverted from real

ones. Spark told RNZ it can handle the extra volumes, but police must deal with the transferred calls in the same queue as genuine emergencies.

Initial call answering is done by Spark rather than by emergency responders: its call centre asks which service the caller wants and transfers the call, defaulting to police if unclear. Spark said it takes its responsibility "extremely seriously" but appreciates that the end-to-end system is under stress, and told RNZ on Wednesday that it supports a review. It said it would expect such a review to consider moving the answering point to a public-service model that could be integrated into emergency services' operations as an initial triage point. Spark said it would keep operating the initial call answering point safely and reliably through any transition.

Successive governments have failed to fund a replacement, according to RNZ. Police set up a cross-agency group last year, the Future of the Emergency Contact System, which includes MBIE and telcos. A police plan this year gave an expected completion date for replacement of 2027-28, and RNZ has asked police for an update. A prepared police media release said the current system continued to operate effectively, while an April performance review called it increasingly unfit for purpose; RNZ has asked police to explain.

REPORTING FROM

1 **RNZ** · Fragile 111 system poses fundamental risk - but replacement delayed again

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

FIBRE, SUBSEA & INTERCONNECT 13 OF 13

APNIC survey: members back routing security and deployment support as it plans 2028-2032

The APNIC Executive Council says satisfaction was between 91 and 93 per cent on its core measures in the 2026 member survey, with routing security the most valued potential new service. The results will feed the 2028-2032 Strategic Plan.

Best Effort desk · Mon 16 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

For Australian and Pacific operators, the results point to APNIC weighting RPKI, routing security and practical deployment support in its next strategic plan, with attention to lower governance awareness in Oceania.

APNIC's Executive Council has published its response to the 2026 APNIC Survey, reporting satisfaction of 93 per cent for the quality of services and products and 92 per cent for their value and for the experience of dealing with APNIC. The survey was run independently by Survey Matters and drew 1,385 responses, with a 95 per cent confidence level and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent. The results were presented at the APNIC Members Meeting at APNIC 62 and will inform the 2028-2032 Strategic Plan.

Responsiveness to member and community feedback scored 91 per cent, and 88 per cent of respondents rated the value of APNIC membership positively. Some 91 per cent agreed that APNIC is respected in the Internet community and that it makes a positive contribution to Internet development in the Asia Pacific region, while 65 per cent said they speak well or highly of it to others. Governance confidence averaged 77 per cent across eight measures, but an average of 20 per cent of respondents answered 'don't know', rising to 35 per cent in Oceania. The council said that points to a need for better communication and easier access to governance information.

Respondents placed the highest value on activities that help the Internet run securely and effectively. Infrastructure deployment support was rated highly valuable or essential by 85 per cent for their own organisations and 86 per cent for the community, and technical training by 84 per cent on both measures. Feedback called for hands-on learning, implementation help and mentoring, and featured IPv6, RPKI, routing security and cybersecurity repeatedly.

When asked about possible new services, 86 per cent of member respondents rated further routing security improvements highly valuable or essential. IP abuse mitigation support followed at 84 per cent, BGP analysis and insights at 83 per cent, and data mapping and network views at 81 per cent. Among existing registry services, Whois and the Internet Routing Registry ranked highest, closely followed by RPKI. The council said interest is strongest in services that build on APNIC's established technical responsibilities and expertise.

Priorities differ across the region. South Asia and Least Developed Economies put particular weight on technical training and community development, while Pacific Island respondents highlighted local visibility, access and opportunities to participate. Respondents asked for local-language resources, in-economy activities and stronger local partnerships. The council said it will consider in the strategic plan where differentiated delivery and local partnerships can increase impact.

Only 26 per cent of respondents had followed policy discussions, which the council said shows participation in the Policy Development Process remains concentrated among a relatively small group. Respondents cited competing priorities, unclear relevance to their roles, limited awareness and uncertainty about the process.

In an exercise allocating 100 points across eight activity areas, averages were relatively evenly spread. The top three were supporting deployment of Internet infrastructure at 15.5 points, improving existing registry services at 15.1, and

community and ecosystem support at 15.1. The council said broad support does not remove the need to make choices, and that planning will need to weigh priorities against available resources and manage expectations.

REPORTING FROM

1 **APNIC Blog** · 2026 APNIC Survey: Executive Council Response

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