Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Tuesday 17 November 2026

- A global Microsoft 365 failure on Friday 13 November 2026 took Outlook, Teams and SharePoint offline for agencies including ASIO and the AFP, with Microsoft ruling out a cyber attack.
- The government also said it will legislate safety obligations and a regulator for frontier AI.
- A seller is advertising 11 million alleged Optus records for US$46,000; the claim is unverified.

13 stories · **24 min** reading · **22** sources · Online at besteffort.au/editions/2026-11-17

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Microsoft 365 outage hits ASIO, AFP and Australian businesses for most of a day

A global Microsoft 365 failure that began early on Friday 13 November 2026 knocked out Outlook, Teams and SharePoint for Australian agencies including ASIO and the AFP, with Microsoft ruling out a cyber attack and recovering servers in stages.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 5 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The outage showed that email, messaging and file storage for Australian agencies and businesses depend on a few cloud providers, and it strengthened calls from the ACS and academics for resilience and sovereignty reviews.

A global outage of Microsoft 365 business and enterprise services left millions of people, including Australian workers and government agencies, unable to reach email, messages and files on Friday 13 November 2026, Information Age reported. The Australian Federal Police, ASIO and the ABC were among those affected, along with local businesses and other organisations. Microsoft first flagged trouble at 12:54pm US Eastern time on Thursday, or 4:54am AEDT on Friday, according to iTWire.

Affected services grew to include Exchange Online, Teams, SharePoint Online, Copilot, Defender XDR, Planner, To Do, Intune, Purview, Power BI and Universal Print. Anthropic and OpenAI said their Microsoft connectors were affected. Downdetector Australia recorded more than 5500 local Outlook reports by about 9.30am AEDT, as part of more than 130,000 reports worldwide, Nine reported.

Microsoft said servers had become unresponsive and that a core process on them was becoming overwhelmed. Restarts, rerouted traffic and paused deployments did not provide the relief it expected. Later it said the failing process was responsible for establishing secure connections, and that it was reverting a recent network configuration change that correlated with the start of impact. At about 10am AEDT it began returning some servers to service, but soon after 11am it said some were again becoming unresponsive once they received traffic. Just after 6pm, Nine reported, Microsoft said it was seeing positive results from traffic optimisation actions.

Minister Tony Burke told a press conference that Microsoft had told him it did not believe it was dealing with a cyber attack, and that the company saw it as an update gone awry. A Microsoft spokesperson told Information Age there was "no indication of a cyberattack". ASIO director-general Mike Burgess said the

agency's emails were affected at one level, but not completely. Triple Zero said the outage would not directly affect its services, and Service NSW said some transactions were unavailable.

RSM Australia's Ashwin Pal told the ABC the cost to professional service businesses would be hundreds of thousands of dollars per hour, and that small businesses would be hit hardest. Queensland business owner Tracey Tucker said the lost day would cost at least $30,000.

The Australian Computer Society renewed calls for a national review of sovereign IT risk. ACS chief executive Prins Ralston said, "ASIO and the AFP had workarounds." RMIT's Mark Gregory said it was incumbent on the Australian government to ensure big tech isolates Australia from outages of this type by hosting infrastructure and systems locally. University of Melbourne's Toby Murray said relying on a very small number of cloud vendors was a real challenge.

REPORTING FROM

1. **iTWire** · Microsoft's Friday the 13th outage shows the cost of running the whole office on one cloud
2. **ABC News** · Microsoft outage shows Australia must develop digital resilience, experts warn, but it will cost
3. **Information Age (ACS)** · Major Microsoft outage hits Outlook, Teams, more
4. **Nine.com.au** · Microsoft global outage: What we know so far and when we expect it to be fixed
5. **ABC News** · Outlook outage expected to cost Australian businesses billions of dollars

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

POLICY & REGULATION 2 OF 13

UTS opens Telecom Research Institute with controlled Triple Zero test facility

The University of Technology Sydney has opened a government-backed Telecom Research Institute that houses the National Telecom Resilience Centre, which the government describes as Australia's first controlled emergency-call test facility.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Routine controlled testing of Triple Zero using carrier equipment creates a continuing source of data on emergency-call reliability, an arrangement that grew out of the review of the 2023 Optus outage.

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) opened a federally backed Telecom Research Institute on Tuesday 17 November 2026, with a brief to make Australian telecommunications, Triple Zero included, more dependable and better able to withstand failures. Communications Minister Anika Wells announced the opening.

Within the Institute sits the National Telecom Resilience Centre, which the government says contains Australia's first controlled emergency-call test facility. UTS, the Australian Telecommunications Alliance and the government worked together to establish it. Staff carry out routine end-to-end tests of Triple Zero and use the resulting data to help make the emergency call service sturdier.

Mobile carriers supply network equipment and back the testing arrangement, which stems from a recommendation of the Bean Review into the 2023 Optus outage. The government presents the arrangement as one element of its effort to strengthen Triple Zero.

The Institute's research agenda also takes in resilience of networks, spotting network failures early, and the arrival of low Earth orbit satellite technology for emergency communication. It is also meant to grow the skills of people who test, research and protect the networks in daily use.

Wells said facilities of this kind help the sector tackle its challenges and build skills, "which means customers get a better service". She said the government would keep working with industry and experts so networks "remain future-ready as technology continues to evolve".

REPORTING FROM

1 **Minister for Communications** · Addressing the telecommunications challenges of the future

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

POLICY & REGULATION 3 OF 13

Australia to legislate mandatory safety rules and a regulator for frontier AI

The government will legislate safety and security obligations for frontier AI developers and create a regulator with power to penalise breaches, following a rapid review of an AI agent's intrusion into a Medicare portal.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Frontier AI developers operating in Australia face enforceable obligations on security controls, independent evaluation and incident reporting, overseen by a dedicated regulator. Vendors are urging operators that run AI agents inside networks and business systems to improve visibility of those agents before detailed rules arrive.

The Australian government will pass laws requiring frontier AI companies to meet safety and security obligations, after a rapid review into an AI agent that infiltrated the Medicare Statistics Reporting Service Portal. A new regulator would be given powers to enforce the rules and penalise companies that fall short. Mobile World Live reported on 11 November 2026 that the standards would cover every frontier AI company operating in Australia and that breaches would attract significant penalties.

Companies would have to report misaligned AI behaviour and cyber incidents. The government listed six requirements: security controls through development and deployment, identifying model risks, allowing independent evaluation, notifying government of incidents, publishing safety and security frameworks, and adapting as standards change. The legislation is still being written and will sit within the AI in Australia's Interests agenda.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Australia must be prepared for the new risks that come with fast-advancing technology. Albanese said, "These protections will ensure we keep Australians safe and secure our national interests, while seizing the generational opportunities that AI offers." The

government said capturing the benefits of AI depends on social licence, safety for Australians and security for the national interest.

Industry reaction centred on governance, cyber risk and the impact on businesses already using AI. Fortinet's Australian chief information security officer, Cornelius Mare, said, "Requirements such as security controls across development and deployment, independent model evaluation, and rapid incident notification give organisations a clearer baseline for trusting the AI systems they adopt." Mare said further detail on the Australian AI Standards legislation is likely in 2027, and he urged organisations to manage AI agents as they would any other identity, with clear ownership, least-privilege access and continuous monitoring.

Fortinet's Nicole Henry said the test would be whether agencies can share information and move quickly when incidents arise. She said the regulator would need to work closely with the Australian AI Safety Institute, the Australian Signals Directorate, existing regulators and industry. Henry also noted the appointment of Minister Ayres to administer the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and help oversee the Office of AI.

SAP's Angela Colantuono, who leads the company in Australia and New Zealand, welcomed the announcement but argued Australia must be clear about which AI it is regulating. Logicalis general manager Lisa Fortey said companies should not wait for the rules, stating "I don't believe organisations should be waiting for regulation to tell them what good looks like".

REPORTING FROM

1 **IT Brief Australia** · Australia to legislate safety rules for frontier AI
2 **Mobile World Live** · Australia to tighten AI safety rules

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

DATA CENTRES 4 OF 13

Data Centres Australia forecasts 3.9GW of capacity by 2030, up from 1.6GW

A new Data Centres Australia and DC Byte report lifts its 2030 capacity forecast to 3.9GW from 3.2GW. Melbourne's pipeline has overtaken Sydney's, and projects outside the two hubs hold a bigger share.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The figures suggest planning timelines, energy availability and state policy are increasingly shaping where capacity gets built, with Victoria gaining on Sydney and other states taking a larger share of the pipeline.

Data Centres Australia has lifted its capacity forecast for the Australian market in 2030 to 3.9GW, from an earlier 3.2GW, and expects 97 more facilities by then. The report was compiled with market intelligence firm DC Byte. It counts 163 operating data centres with combined capacity of 1.6GW.

Compared with the previous edition, forecast pipeline capacity is up by 5.2GW and capacity under construction has doubled. Construction growth is split evenly between Sydney and Melbourne, but activity at earlier stages has moved in different directions. In Melbourne, 1.2GW advanced from early stage to committed, against 0.7GW in Sydney.

Sydney's overall pipeline shrank by 3.6GW and its early stage capacity by 4.4GW, a drop the report attributes to energy constraints, approval timelines and recent policy changes. Melbourne's pipeline grew by 1.7GW and is now larger than Sydney's. Its early stage capacity grew by just 0.3GW, which suggests the gain came mostly from projects progressing rather than a flood of new proposals.

The report says Victoria's gains may reflect quicker approvals under the state government's Development Facilitation Program, while New South Wales projects go through the State Significant Development process with a less certain timetable. Data Centres Australia chief executive Belinda Dennett said Victoria's pipeline had grown sharply over six months, "likely attributable to the state government's efforts to attract investment". She said recent policy changes may affect whether that continues.

Two years ago, 19% of the total pipeline lay outside Sydney and Melbourne; the share is now 31%. Early stage proposals in Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia are part of that shift. Dennett said she expected the trend to continue as AI and neocloud workloads bring "different siting

requirements".

Unlike counts built mainly on announcements or grid connection applications, DC Byte's method weighs viability, trying to separate likelier projects from speculative ones. Dennett said the report was designed to help "cut through the noise by qualifying project viability". Cloud and AI compute demand is named as a central driver of the expected growth.

REPORTING FROM

1 **DataCenterNews Asia Pacific** · Australia data centre capacity to nearly double by 2030

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

DATA CENTRES 5 OF 13

671 of 759 submissions oppose AirTrunk's Kurri Kurri data centre

Exhibition of AirTrunk's proposed Kurri Kurri data centre ended on 11 November 2026 with 671 of 759 public submissions against it. Agency letters since posted show Cessnock council objecting and Ausgrid stating that grid connection is not yet approved.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 3 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

With grid connection unresolved and the council asking whether network upgrades will fall to others, the application tests how NSW handles large data centre loads under its August 2026 policy framework of no net cost to consumers and communities.

Public exhibition of AirTrunk's proposed data centre at Loxford, near Kurri Kurri in New South Wales, ended on Wednesday 11 November, with 671 of 759 submissions opposing it, according to the Newcastle Herald and Newcastle Weekly. The Herald reported 77 submissions in support of the $3.7 billion proposal and 11 that offered comment. Cessnock City Council's own objection is counted among the 671.

The Connection Point went through the register's entries and found the submitters are largely local, with Kurri Kurri the most common suburb at 148 submissions, then Weston at 81. Its word search of the objections found references to electricity, power, energy or the grid in 405, noise in 389, water in 281 and fire in 138. Residents group RADIKKAL says 82 per cent of

respondents to AirTrunk's own community survey did not want the project.

The project is an AI training facility on the former Hydro Aluminium smelter site, with an average load of 458.1 MW at full capacity, while the two outlets describe a 540-megawatt facility on Hart Road. The environmental impact statement proposes a dual overhead connection from the existing Ausgrid 132 kV line at the site boundary, and no augmentation of the transmission network. Ausgrid's letter of 11 November confirms formal connection talks with the proponent are under way, and lists detailed design, network impact assessments, easements, commercial arrangements and any augmentation as unresolved. The utility states that its letter is neither connection approval nor confirmation that network capacity is available. The Connection Point noted that Transgrid, which operates the transmission network above Ausgrid's, is not among the six agencies whose letters were posted.

Cessnock council's submission carries its 21 October resolution to object formally, and seeks a national moratorium on data centre approvals until federal frameworks are in place, to be requested from the federal Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy. The council argues the impact statement does not adequately explain regional network implications, cumulative effects or energy security risks, and it asks how the figure of 254 full-time jobs was reached. AirTrunk claims more than 350 ongoing jobs, according to Newcastle Weekly. The council says any planning agreement will be worth not less than $46,118,317.50 including GST, which The Connection Point calculated amounts to the same 1 per cent contribution as the draft offer.

Hunter Water said the design, with 312 dry air-cooled chillers and potable use of 2.80 ML a year, does not pose a significant water security risk, and that its advice depends on that fact. It wants any shift to using water for cooling assessed as a formal modification. The EPA said an environment protection licence does not appear necessary, but asked how the project relates to the neighbouring Kurri Kurri Power Station. Fire and Rescue NSW recommends a fire safety study before construction. The Development Coordination Authority asked for part of the biodiversity mapping to be redone.

RADIKKAL spokesperson Graeme Davies said residents had given AirTrunk the same answer throughout, adding: "The minister now has 671 reasons to refuse it," he said. The group has asked the department to refer the application to the Independent Planning Commission, order an independent low-frequency noise study and recommend refusal. Supporters pointed to jobs and the site's industrial history, and the Hunter Region Business Enterprise Centre backed the project on condition of enforceable measures to cut town water use.

Because it is a State Significant Development, the decision rests with the NSW Government. The department has asked AirTrunk for a submissions report within two months of 12 November, about 12 January 2027.

REPORTING FROM

1 **The Connection Point** · Kurri Kurri data centre: Cessnock council objects, and Ausgrid says the grid connection is not yet approved · The Connection Point

2 **The Australian Developer** · 671 of 759 submissions oppose AirTrunk's Kurri Kurri data centre

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 6 OF 13

Seller lists 11 million alleged Optus records for US$46,000 on Russian-language forum

A seller on a Russian-language cybercrime forum is advertising what it claims are about 11 million Optus customer records for US$46,000. The claim is unverified, and no confirmation from Optus has been identified.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The listing suggests data exposed in Optus's September 2022 breach, which affected approximately 9.8 million customers, may still be circulating and being resold or combined with other sources, even without a new compromise.

A seller on a Russian-language cybercrime forum is offering a dataset it describes as roughly 11 million Optus customer records, priced at US$46,000. The listing attributes the data to Optus, though the seller has given no account of how it was obtained. The reporting, which draws on Daily Dark Web, identified no public confirmation from Optus, so the claim stays unverified.

Per the advertisement, the entries cover names, email addresses, mobile numbers, street addresses, cities, states, postcodes and dates of birth. Last-updated timestamps and source URLs are also listed. Nothing in the advertisement shows whether every one of the 11 million entries is unique, complete, accurate or current.

The main open question is whether this is a new compromise or old material from the September 2022 Optus breach. That earlier incident exposed data linked to approximately 9.8 million current and former customers, including names, dates of birth and phone numbers, and for some people home addresses and identity-document details. The advertised count sits fairly near the scale of the 2022 incident. The analysis outlines several possibilities: 2022 data repackaged for sale, older records combined with other information, or a

collection stitched together from multiple databases. It said a fresh intrusion cannot be ruled out but no evidence currently establishes one, and timestamps from 2026 do not prove new access to Optus systems.

The seller has not named the systems involved, the date of any compromise or provided technical evidence tying the data to a recent Optus incident. The analysis noted that a database may contain recently updated entries yet trace back to an older breach. It also said an asking price proves neither authenticity nor exclusivity nor buyer demand.

If the records were genuine, the analysis said, the combination of fields could feed phishing, SIM-swapping attempts, identity fraud, account takeovers and telco-themed scams. It put confidence in a new-breach attribution at low and advised customers to stay alert to unexpected verification requests and suspicious messages.

REPORTING FROM

1 **UNDERCODE NEWS** · Optus Faces New Data Breach Concerns as Seller Advertises 11 Million Customer Records for 6,000 + Video

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

DATA CENTRES 7 OF 13

SCEE's Heyday and Force Fire win more than $300m in awards, led by NEXTDC S4

Southern Cross Electrical Engineering said its Heyday and Force Fire subsidiaries have secured work worth more than $300 million, led by the electrical package for the first stage of NEXTDC's S4 data centre in Horsley Park, NSW.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The award shows the S4 hyperscale campus in western Sydney moving into electrical fit-out, with works expected to finish in early 2028. It also points to the contractor revenue generated by data centre builds as demand for AI computing and cloud services drives new capacity.

Southern Cross Electrical Engineering (ASX: SXE) said its Heyday and Force Fire businesses have been awarded projects worth more than $300 million, spanning data centres and commercial and residential buildings. The biggest piece is the electrical design and construct contract for stage one of NEXTDC's S4 data centre at Horsley Park, NSW, which Multiplex Constructions has now placed with Heyday. It converts an earlier letter of authorisation covering initial works.

Heyday will deliver electrical and communications infrastructure across the site, high voltage switching, a security operations centre and ancillary buildings. It will also build out two four-level data hall buildings with 60,000 square metres of gross floor area, aimed at hyperscale tenants running AI, cloud and storage workloads. The scope extends to installing and managing transformers, switchboards, generators, UPS units, modular switch room skids and busways supplied by the client, and completion is expected in early 2028. Heyday has worked on the project since 2024, when it advised Multiplex and NEXTDC on concepts and costs.

Separately, Shape has hired Force Fire to deliver fire services at a data centre project, covering both wet and dry systems. Force Fire recently finished design development for the fire services, and techpartner.news reported that the announcement did not name the client or location.

Heyday also won three building contracts in the ACT. Lendlease Construction has given it multiple stages of the Commonwealth Office Precinct in Barton, Canberra, which is designed for up to 5,000 personnel and is anticipated to finish in 2029. GEOCON Constructors has contracted it for electrical and communications services at 220 Northbourne – Gateway in Braddon, a 503-apartment development scheduled for completion in February 2028. Hindmarsh Construction Australia has engaged it on the N-11 Build-to-Rent development in Woden Green, which will have 326 apartments and is expected to be done by June 2028.

Group managing director Graeme Dunn described the package as the largest single announcement of works in the group's history, adding that two of the last five months had each delivered record monthly revenue. Dunn said he was pleased the data centre awards came from clients for whom the group had done significant works before. SXE was steady at $3.86 before markets opened on Monday 16 November 2026, with a market capitalisation of $1.178 billion.

techpartner.news noted that coNEXA is to supply up to 16 million litres of recycled water a day to S4 under a $250 million expansion of its AquaNet network. It also noted that in October NEXTDC cut its FY27 net revenue and earnings guidance after Jemena suspended network works needed to lift grid supply to its M3 Melbourne data centre.

REPORTING FROM

1 **The Market Online** · Southern Cross Electrical Engineering lands over $300m in data centre and buildings awards

2 **techpartner.news** · SCEE wins contracts worth over $300m, including data centre work

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

AI INFRASTRUCTURE 8 OF 13

Firmus weighs customer prepayments in $3 billion private raising after IPO pulled

Nvidia-backed AI infrastructure company Firmus is reported to be seeking about $3 billion privately through shares, debt and customer prepayments, with prepayments from customers such as Nvidia and Meta the most advanced option. The talks follow its withdrawal of an ASX listing in October.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The talks show how heavily AI data centre developers depend on upfront capital, and how customer contracts are being used to fund construction when public markets balk at valuations and debt.

Australian AI infrastructure company Firmus is reportedly seeking about $3 billion in private financing after withdrawing its planned initial public offering. The Australian Financial Review reported on Sunday that the plan would combine new shares, debt and prepayments from customers including Nvidia and Meta. Webpronews put the target at US$3 billion, about A$4.4 billion.

Talks on customer prepayments are reportedly the furthest advanced. Three people with knowledge of the plan told the AFR the arrangement could see about 12.5% of Firmus's contracts paid in advance, money that would fund AI and data centre capacity not yet built. The financing options remain under negotiation, and it has not been confirmed whether Nvidia or Meta have agreed to prepay or in what amount.

Firmus had sought to list on the Australian stock market in October, aiming to raise up to $5.5 billion at a valuation of about $30 billion. It pulled the offer after struggling to draw enough investor demand, with concerns over its high valuation and debt burden. Reports in October also said it was discussing raising $2 billion to $3 billion from existing investors.

Prepayment financing is spreading among GPU cloud providers known as neoclouds, and webpronews said Nebius and CoreWeave both described the practice in November. Nvidia sits on both sides of the plan, having taken part in Firmus's August funding round while also being named as a customer in the prepayment talks, the AFR reported.

Firmus's pitch rests on its contracts. In September it named OpenAI an anchor customer for two planned Malaysian sites and said contracted capacity exceeded 900 megawatts. It is operating or developing seven AI data centres across Australia, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia, with two, in Australia and Singapore, operating at the time of the September update. Also in September it signed an agreement with Meta to supply GPU capacity from Southeast Asian facilities, and Meta already runs Nvidia GB300 NVL72 systems at Firmus's Melbourne site. Five of the seven sites were still under development as of that update, all targeting ready-for-service within 24 months.

Co-chief executive Tim Rosenfield said Firmus is building AI factories across the Asia-Pacific region and "we will provide infrastructure that can support and scale the world's most demanding AI workloads."

REPORTING FROM

1. **Korea Wind Intelligence** · Firmus seeks financing through Nvidia and Meta prepayments after IPO withdrawal
2. **au.investing.com** · Nvidia-backed Firmus seeks $3 billion in private funding after failed IPO By Investing.com
3. **webpronews.com** · Firmus Wants Its Biggest Customers to Pay Up Front for AI Data Centers It Hasn't Built

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

POLICY & REGULATION 9 OF 13

ACMA proposes to remake JASANZ approving body determination before April 2027 sunset

The ACMA wants to remake the Telecommunications (Approving Body) Determination 2017 with no substantive changes. The instrument is due to sunset on 1 April 2027, and submissions close on 18 December 2026.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Re-making the determination would keep JASANZ as the approving body for certification bodies, so the compliance route used by equipment manufacturers and importers under the labelling notice would carry on past the April 2027 sunset.

The ACMA has proposed re-making its Telecommunications (Approving Body) Determination 2017 without substantive changes, before the instrument lapses on 1 April 2027. The regulator opened the consultation on Friday 13 November 2026, and it closes at 5 pm AEDT on Friday 18 December 2026.

Under the determination, the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JASANZ) is named as an approving body. In that role JASANZ decides which organisations qualify as certification bodies, a function set out in Division 7 of Part 21 of the Telecommunications Act 1997.

Certification bodies produce statements giving independent verification that customer equipment or customer cabling meets the technical standards that apply to it. Importers and manufacturers of that equipment or cabling may use the statements as one route to demonstrate compliance under the Telecommunications (Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Instrument 2025.

The ACMA said it considers the determination remains a necessary and useful element of the regulatory framework. A consultation paper and draft instrument are published on the ACMA site, where submissions can also be uploaded.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ACMA** · Proposal to remake the Telecommunications (Approving Body) Determination 2017

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

DATA CENTRES 10 OF 13

Dataspace launches as independent operator with five former Fujitsu data centres

Dataspace, owned by private equity firm Next Capital, has begun trading with the five Australian data centres it bought from Fujitsu in July. It says it has spare capacity now and room to build more at selected Sydney and Melbourne sites.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The deal converts a vendor-owned data centre estate into a standalone operator with spare capacity and possible expansion in Sydney and Melbourne, adding a data centre provider aimed at government, financial services, enterprise, cloud and AI customers.

Dataspace has started operating as a data centre business, running five sites in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth that were bought from Fujitsu, ARN reported on 17 November 2026. The facilities are in Greystanes and Homebush (Sydney), Noble Park (Melbourne), Malaga (Perth) and Eight Mile Plains (Brisbane). Next Capital bought them in July; they formerly formed Fujitsu's Australian data centre arm.

Next Capital, a private equity firm, owns Dataspace. The business keeps the sites' existing staff, customers and infrastructure, and adds a new management team and an investment approach centred only on data centres. In a statement, Dataspace said the current facilities have room to sell now, plus space that could be converted if demand rises. It also sees potential to develop selected sites in Sydney and Melbourne.

Gavin Milton-White, who was Fujitsu Asia Pacific head of transformation service delivery, is the new CEO. He said the immediate priority is holding operational standards and customer relationships while the company invests in its next phase. Milton-White said the starting point differs from a greenfield development and "allows us to grow progressively as customer demand develops".

Ian Porter, from Keppell DC Services Australia, is chief development officer, and Stefan Luke, a Carter Newell partner, is general counsel. Glenn Walker, managing director of Tractix, takes the chief information officer role. Raj Sharan, who led commercial for Queensland and South Australia at DigiCo Infrastructure REIT, becomes chief financial officer.

Government, financial services and enterprise customers will continue to be served, Dataspace said, with support broadening to cloud, high-performance computing and AI workloads. Milton-White said future capacity is being designed for higher density, but "we are not building the business around one technology or one type of customer". Dataspace will also keep the previous approach of tailoring infrastructure, equipment, installation and support to each customer rather than using one standard environment.

Next Capital partner James Murphy said the firm sees "a significant opportunity to support Dataspace with further investment as it enters its next stage of growth".

REPORTING FROM

1 **ARN** · Data centre operator Dataspace opens with five facilities across Australia

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

SATELLITE & SPACE 11 OF 13

Most remote First Nations households have no free-to-air TV as VAST equipment fails

The 2026 Mapping the Digital Gap report found 63 per cent of surveyed remote First Nations households cannot get free-to-air TV through the VAST satellite service, up from 50 per cent in 2022, while fixed broadband uptake has risen sharply.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The government has committed to equal digital inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 2026, and the report points to ageing satellite TV equipment, high prepaid mobile spending and a fast shift to fixed broadband, including Starlink, as the gaps that remain.

Nearly two thirds of households in remote First Nations communities have no free-to-air television, because of problems with the satellite service that delivers it where terrestrial broadcasts are unavailable, according to the latest Mapping the Digital Gap report. The researchers found 63 per cent of survey respondents had no access, up from 50 per cent in 2022. The findings draw on visits to 11 remote communities in 2025 and 2026, and build on research

conducted since 2022.

Most remote households rely on the federal government's Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service, which began rolling out in 2010 as analogue broadcasts were switched off. Direct-to-home satellite equipment was installed in most remote First Nations households from 2011 to 2013, replacing community broadcasting in many sites, and households are now responsible for maintaining it. Set-top boxes commonly fail because of power surges, smart cards are often removed, and dishes and cabling fail through damage or deterioration. Technical support typically comes from regional centres, and a replacement set-top box typically costs between $400 and $600 in local stores.

Failure rates vary by community. In Ampilatwatja only 24 per cent of VAST TV services were working, and Pipalyatjara and Kalka were both at 25 per cent, despite satellite dish upgrades by APY Housing in remote South Australia. Working rates were also low in Utju (32 per cent), Maningrida (34 per cent) and Woorabinda (38 per cent) in 2026. In October, the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group called for upgrades to VAST and a return to community broadcasting.

Two small communities have taken their own steps. In Oak Valley, local staff help residents activate set-top boxes, and 64 per cent of residents have TV services in 2026. In Punmu, the community supplies set-top boxes with pre-activated smart cards at wholesale prices, and 82 per cent of survey respondents have working VAST TV in 2026, up from 62 per cent in 2025. The NT government has also funded a three-year trial upgrade of TV broadcasting in three Central Australian regional councils, which the authors describe as a pilot case study for a possible national upgrade program.

Online access is growing but remains costly. Fixed broadband uptake rose from 8 per cent in 2025 to 32 per cent in 2026, including 24 per cent with Starlink. Even so, 93 per cent of respondents own or share a mobile phone, 98 per cent of those are on pre-paid plans, and an average of 88 per cent of communications spending goes to prepaid mobile recharges. The authors say losing free-to-air TV may push up prepaid data spending, overload mobile services and increase reliance on unreliable news sources.

A federal government-funded rollout of free community-wide Wi-Fi has reached 23 remote communities since 2024-25, and a second phase covering 52 communities and homelands is under way. The research project receives funding from Telstra and the Australian Research Council.

REPORTING FROM

1 **The Conversation AU** · Nearly two thirds of remote First Nations households lack free-to-air TV access

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 12 OF 13

NSW Telco Authority brings emergency radio cover to Western Sydney Airport and new metro stations

NSW Telco Authority has rolled out In-Building Coverage for the Public Safety Network at Western Sydney International Airport, Sydney Metro M1 stations and two road tunnel interchanges, aimed at keeping emergency crews on radio where outdoor signals struggle.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Fitting public safety radio coverage into airport, rail and tunnel projects as they open means responders have working communications in enclosed sites where outdoor signals are limited.

NSW Telco Authority has pushed Public Safety Network (PSN) coverage inside Western Sydney International Airport before its opening, giving police, paramedics, firefighters and airport response teams radio connectivity from the first day of operations. The airport took its first passengers on 25 October and is designed to handle up to 10 million travellers in its first year.

The work relies on In-Building Coverage (IBC), which extends the PSN into airports, underground stations and road tunnels, places where mobile and outdoor radio signals can be limited. The authority said the system helps emergency services keep their radio links dependable while attending incidents.

The same approach covers parts of Sydney's rail network. With the Southwest Metro opening on 30 October, every station on the Sydney Metro M1 line, running from the northwest through the city to Bankstown, now carries PSN technology. The authority said this lets responders stay in contact above and below ground along one of the city's busiest transport corridors.

IBC installations are also finished at the WestConnex St Peters Interchange and the Rozelle Interchange, which the authority characterised as among the most complex tunnel settings in Sydney.

REPORTING FROM

1 **NSW Telco Authority** · Keeping emergency services connected at Sydney’s new transport hubs

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

AI INFRASTRUCTURE 13 OF 13

Australian data-centre operators reassess Nvidia GPU supply after Huang resigns

None of Nvidia's eight named Australian partners has announced a change to GPU allocations since Jensen Huang quit as chief executive on Thursday, TechReviewAustralia reported. Finance chief Colette Kress is interim CEO.

Best Effort desk · Tue 17 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Australian AI capacity plans, including Sharon AI's GPU deployment and the IREN and CDC campuses, are tied to Nvidia's delivery schedules and the 2GW partner program. No partner has reported a change so far, so operators are depending on the board's assurance that commitments continue.

Local data-centre operators are taking a fresh look at their Nvidia GPU supply after Jensen Huang stepped down as president, chief executive and board member on Thursday, TechReviewAustralia reported on Sunday 15 November 2026. Colette Kress, Nvidia's chief financial officer since 2013, has taken over as interim chief executive. The board said day-to-day operations, commitments to customers and the product roadmap would carry on without interruption.

In September Nvidia named eight Australian partners in a program aiming for up to 2 gigawatts of DSX AI factory capacity by 2027. They are Firmus, Sharon AI, IREN, Megaport, ResetData, CDC, NextDC and AirTrunk. Sharon AI has said it intends to deploy as many as 68,000 Nvidia GPUs. IREN is building an 800MW campus at Bundey in South Australia, and CDC is adding a further 800MW to the more than 550MW it already runs.

Since the resignation, no partner has announced a change to its Nvidia allocation or delivery timetable. TechReviewAustralia said operators are leaning on the board's assurance that customer commitments continue. Nvidia has not published how the 2GW target is divided among the eight. Suppliers in Taiwan and South Korea are separately weighing whether the leadership change could affect Nvidia's priority access to chipmaking slots and high-bandwidth memory.

Two partners have had separate news in recent days. NextDC put uncontracted projects on hold after the Melbourne power delay, and AirTrunk signed a renewables agreement covering more than 1GW in New South Wales on 11 November. Both remain on the September partner list.

Kress has fronted Nvidia's finance function for 13 years and has overseen its growth through the AI boom. TechReviewAustralia reported that analysts and industry sources see her as a more measured figure than Huang. The board is

searching for a permanent chief executive and will look at internal and external candidates. Nvidia is still due to report earnings on Tuesday.

REPORTING FROM

1 **TechReviewAustralia** · Nvidia Australia GPU Supply: Operators Reassess After Jensen Huang Resignation

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