Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Wednesday 18 November 2026

- Malware planted in Optimizely scripts reached 178 organisations, including Vodafone Australia and TPG Telecom, between Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 November 2026; Optimizely says it has fixed the flaw.
- AirTrunk signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh on 13 November 2026 for two campuses of up to 1.8 GW.
- In Wagga Wagga, council rejected a pause on CDC's proposed 1.4 GW Gregadoo data centre.

10 stories · **19 min** reading · **20** sources · Online at besteffort.au/editions/2026-11-18

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CARRIERS & NETWORKS 1 OF 10

Malware planted in Optimizely scripts hit 178 sites, including Vodafone and TPG

Report URI found malicious code in 188 Optimizely snippets belonging to 178 organisations, including Vodafone Australia and TPG Telecom, from Monday 16 to Tuesday 17 November 2026. Optimizely says it has fixed the flaw, and most of the code was gone by Tuesday morning.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 3 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The incident shows how one third-party script supplier can put malicious code on the sites of Australian telcos, banks and super funds without those organisations' own systems being breached.

Security firm Report URI found malware in scripts served by the website testing service Optimizely, on the sites of 178 organisations including Vodafone Australia, TPG Telecom, Rest Super and HSBC Australia. From Monday afternoon into Tuesday, Australian time, visitors could be served code that swapped crypto wallet addresses, skimmed card numbers and tried to exploit older iPhones and iPads. Optimizely says the flaw is fixed, and most of the malicious code was removed by Tuesday morning.

Each Optimizely customer's pages load a JavaScript snippet from Optimizely's servers, and that snippet can carry custom code the customer writes. Report URI, run by researcher Scott Helme, says the attacker inserted their own code into that custom-code field across many customer projects, while the rest of each file still came from Optimizely. Report URI said a website "can be compromised through a third-party dependency without its own code or infrastructure ever being breached." It checked 1,611 snippets and found malicious code in 188, and says the true number is likely higher because it could only test snippets it located. BleepingComputer separately analysed modified files and confirmed they loaded an extra script from an attacker-controlled domain.

In Australian Eastern Daylight Time, the first injection appeared at about 3:20pm on Monday 16 November, on the BBC's snippet. A card skimmer was added at 12:43am on Tuesday 17 November, and an exploit kit was pushed to visits from iOS 18.6 or earlier at about 4:15am to 5am. A mass clean-up ran from about 7:40am to 8:10am, and by 8:52am only one snippet, belonging to UK broadband provider TalkTalk, still held the code. The attacker's script was rebuilt 26 times, so not every visitor received every feature.

The script replaced wallet addresses it found on the page or in the clipboard, and watched for card details typed into a site's own form fields. Report URI and StepSecurity say card fields inside embedded payment frames from providers such as Stripe or Adyen were out of reach. In some cases it also sent the page address, readable cookies and a screenshot to the attacker. On iOS it loaded the Coruna and DarkSword exploit kits in a hidden frame, and Report URI says the kits' comments indicate recent releases are patched. Report URI says the attacker's wallets received about US$7,040 in roughly nine hours on 16 November (UTC), and Cointelegraph put it at about US$7,100. Report URI says it cannot see how many card numbers or cookies reached the attacker.

Other Australian names on the list include Compare Club, Energy Scout, Betashares, Levi's Australia and O'Brien Glass. Being listed means malicious code was found in that organisation's snippet, not that its own systems were breached or that visitors were harmed. Report URI also says an earlier wave from 13 to 16 November used other third-party scripts, including on smh.com.au, and is not part of the 178.

An Optimizely spokesperson told Gizmodo that an unauthorised party exploited a vulnerability in the Experimentation account signup flow, and that affected customers had been notified. The company told Cointelegraph it had blocked the vulnerable path, removed the injected code, ended sessions, revoked tokens and reset access, and was still investigating. Optimizely has not explained how the signup flaw reached so many projects, and Report URI does not know whether stolen credentials or a compromised system were involved.

Report URI advises Optimizely customers to review custom JavaScript for code they did not write, check who has write access and rotate credentials. For individuals, it recommends updating iPhones and iPads to at least iOS 18.7.3 or iOS 26.3.

REPORTING FROM

1 **THE TECH BOOM** · Hackers hid malware in Optimizely scripts on 178 major websites, including Vodafone, TPG and Rest Super. What Australians should check

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

DATA CENTRES 2 OF 10

AirTrunk signs Andhra Pradesh MoU for two campuses of up to 1.8 GW

AirTrunk, backed by Blackstone, signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh on 13 November 2026 for two proposed campuses in Anakapalli district, with Bloomberg reporting investment of about US$11 billion. The state's own listing shows a smaller capacity than the company's.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 5 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The proposal shows AirTrunk, an Australian data centre operator, building gigawatt-scale capacity in India, though an MoU and project report are not a final investment decision. With the capacity figure unresolved and the state's green-power requirement for large campuses, electricity supply looks like the first hurdle.

AirTrunk has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Andhra Pradesh government covering two proposed data centre campuses in Anakapalli district, with combined capacity of up to 1.8 GW. The company says one site is a 400 MW campus at Rambilli and the other a 1,400 MW campus at Tootipala. AirTrunk India and JCK Infra signed the deal with the state IT department on 13 November 2026, at the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu present.

Bloomberg reported that AirTrunk has filed a detailed project report, and that the investment could come to about US$11 billion. State authorities are still considering the proposal. AirTrunk's own release gives no investment figure. The capacity numbers differ: the state listed the project as 1,400 MW of data centre and telecom infrastructure, while AirTrunk and Bloomberg cite up to 1.8 GW.

AirTrunk said the projects could create more than 3,100 direct operational jobs and 4,700 indirect jobs, and that it plans to partner locally on hiring and skills, including through ITIs and polytechnics in Anakapalli. Carly Wishart, AirTrunk's Managing Director, Corporate and International, said that as the proposal progresses the company will "work closely with the Government and local communities on responsible planning and ways to help local people access the opportunities these projects could create."

On power, AirTrunk said it wants to explore supplying the campuses with renewable energy generated in the state, in line with its commitment to match all its global electricity use with renewables by 2030. The state's special chief secretary for energy told The Hindu that its policy for new data centres above

300 MW calls for at least 51 per cent green power, and both AirTrunk campuses are larger than that. Google received a deemed distribution licence under that approach for its 1 GW hub; AirTrunk's release does not say whether it will seek the same route. Google had earlier requested a grid connection at Rambilli, where AirTrunk proposes its 400 MW campus.

On water, AirTrunk said it favours low-water, air-cooled technology, and its project report proposes drawing any water needed from the Polavaram–Yeleru industrial allocation instead of municipal supplies. Developing Telecoms reported that some Visakhapatnam residents are worried about data centre projects, particularly Google's planned US$15 billion hyperscale facility, citing water, power and jobs.

AirTrunk entered India in April 2026 by acquiring Lumina CloudInfra, and in June said it had signed a letter of intent with the Maharashtra government for a deal potentially worth US$21 billion. It has not given a construction start, phasing or opening date for the Andhra Pradesh campuses.

REPORTING FROM

1. **Second Order by TKN** · AirTrunk's $11B Andhra Pradesh plan: 1.8 GW waits on power
2. **W.Media** · AirTrunk planning 1.8 GW of data center capacity in Andhra Pradesh
3. **Developing Telecoms** · AirTrunk signs MoU for two data centre projects in Andhra Pradesh
4. **IDCNOVA** · Blackstone-Backed AirTrunk Proposes $11 Billion Hyperscale Data Centre Campuses in Andhra Pradesh
5. **AirTrunk** · AirTrunk signs MoU for proposed data centre campuses in Andhra Pradesh

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 3 OF 10

Splice Internet launches fibre-only NBN plans across Gippsland

Splice Internet, the retail arm of the Rural Fibre Co Group, has begun selling NBN services in Gippsland, but only to fibre customers. Fixed wireless and satellite users cannot sign up yet.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

A new retailer on NBN fibre gives regional Victorian households another provider to choose from, and the network Rural Fibre Co is building for fixed wireless and satellite customers suggests the offer could broaden beyond fibre.

Splice Internet, the retail business of the Rural Fibre Co Group, has become an NBN retailer with a range of plans that run only over fibre connections, the Latrobe Valley Express reported on 17 November 2026. Founder Phillip Britt said services will initially be delivered through NBN points of interconnect at Traralgon and Cranbourne.

The service area extends from Sale in the west to Mallacoota in the east, and takes in the Yarram and Leongatha districts. Morwell sits within the area served from Cranbourne.

Households on NBN fixed wireless or satellite cannot take up a Splice plan at present. The Latrobe Valley Express reported that Rural Fibre Co is constructing a network intended for those customers.

Splice is also running special offers during the Black Friday period.

REPORTING FROM

1 **AU Now** · Splice Internet launches fibre-only NBN plans across Gippsland · AU Now

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

DATA CENTRES 4 OF 10

Wagga council rejects pause on CDC's proposed 1.4 GW Gregadoo data centre

Wagga Wagga City Council voted down a motion to ask the NSW Government to pause assessment of CDC Data Centres' proposed Gregadoo campus, after residents petitioned for a moratorium. Land contracts have already been exchanged.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The project shows how large data centre proposals can run into local opposition over power supply, noise and consultation, with land deals settled before the state planning process has begun.

Wagga Wagga City Council has declined to ask the NSW Government to halt assessment of a CDC Data Centres campus planned for Gregadoo, which could become Australia's biggest data centre. Councillor Mick Henderson moved the motion at the ordinary meeting on Monday 16 November, and only Councillor Amelia Parkins backed him. Mayor Dallas Tout and councillors Georgie Davies, Allana Condron, Lindsay Tanner and Richard Foley voted against.

Before the meeting, residents gathered outside the chambers and hummed together, and they handed the council a petition seeking a moratorium. They argued the process had been rushed and lacked transparency. Environmental campaigner Dick Green said the humming was meant to "simulate the 24-hour noise that comes from data centres". Protester Luke Grealy said he felt the council had treated the public with contempt.

CDC plans four buildings on a 104-hectare block off Ashfords Road, providing roughly 189,000 square metres of floor area. Power demand for the site could reach 1.4 gigawatts.

Campaigner Jim Zantiotis said the community was concerned that the council authorised the sale of its land near the Gregadoo tip to CDC at a closed meeting. General manager Peter Thompson confirmed contracts for the purchase had been exchanged and the deal could not be reversed, because CDC could take legal action if the council withdrew. He said the council was not required to consult the community on the sale because it was an operational matter. The meeting also noted a separate petition in favour of the project, which asked that it be pursued with efficiency and without delay.

The NSW Government will now decide whether to approve the project, with the formal environmental impact statement and public exhibition still to come. Henderson told Region he remained sceptical and said he had yet to receive a proper answer on whether there was enough energy for the project. Green also raised concerns about tree removal and habitat impacts.

A CDC spokesperson said land purchase and development approval were separate processes, and that the company connects at transmission level and only where sufficient capacity is available. The spokesperson said the campus would be built in stages and that the state approval process would weigh the combined network demand of other proposed developments. On noise, CDC said the facility would be as "quiet as a library", and that the design would be assessed against NSW rules covering low-frequency and cumulative noise. The company also pledged up to $225 million for community benefits should the project be approved and go ahead as planned.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Region Riverina** · Wagga Council rejects data centre pause petition despite 'humming' protest

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

DATA CENTRES 5 OF 10

Tasmanian MP who tabled data centre moratorium bill holds shares in Goodman Group

Franklin MP Peter George has declared shares in Goodman Group, whose global work in progress is mostly data centres, on the day he tabled a bill to pause new data centres in Tasmania. He said the holding reflects his interest in the company's commercial property.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The bill and the competing positions show Tasmania's data centre rules are still unsettled, with the government relying on expectations while opposition parties and an independent push for binding controls and a pause.

Tasmanian independent MP Peter George has declared shares in Goodman Group, a property developer whose global pipeline is now almost 80 per cent data centres, ahead of tabling a bill for a moratorium on new data centres, ABC News reported. The Franklin MP, who is backed by Climate 200, listed the Sydney-headquartered company among the interests in his retirement plan. Goodman was not in his disclosure 12 months earlier, when he listed shares in Origin Energy and Endeavour Group, both of which he has since divested as inappropriate to his values.

In its full-year results released in August, Goodman said data centre development made up more than $15 billion of its $19.7 billion global work in progress. The share has risen from 57 per cent to 68 per cent by September last year and is now 78 per cent, as the group builds large facilities for cloud and AI customers.

George tabled the bill on Tuesday. It would pause new data centres until issues around location, energy and water use are addressed, and would confine them to designated zones while keeping public consultation and appeal rights. He has criticised the state government for lacking specific planning controls and a broader framework, citing "deep uncertainty" about costs and benefits.

George confirmed he bought the shares in the past 12 months and said his interest stemmed from Goodman's commercial holdings. He said he would review the holding as Goodman "changes its portfolio listings" to ensure he is comfortable with its direction. "It just shows that I am technologically neutral," he said. Goodman recently withdrew its proposed $1.2 billion Project Mars facility on Sydney's north shore after community opposition and regulatory

changes, and has no publicly announced proposals for Tasmania.

The bill follows the Tasmanian government's release of an "expectations" document for data centre developments in the week before George tabled it. It covers partnering with new renewable energy projects, efficient water use and a community benefit fund, and says developers would not be expected to procure or build new firming capacity if Hydro Tasmania already has it available. Labor and the Greens criticised it and called for binding rules before developments proceed, and both supported a pause until those are in place.

Labor leader Josh Willie told parliament on Tuesday that Premier Jeremy Rockliff had given developers "everything they want", saying protections were left to be negotiated behind closed doors. Rockliff defended the expectations, saying "we need to get the balance right" and that developers unwilling to comply should "take your investment elsewhere".

REPORTING FROM

1 **ABC News** · MP declares shares in data centre developer before calling for moratorium

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

POLICY & REGULATION 6 OF 10

Simba does not contest spectrum breaches as director Richard Tan set to resign

Singapore telco Simba, owned by ASX-listed Tuas, has told regulator IMDA it will not contest allegations of unauthorised spectrum and 5G equipment use. Director Richard Tan is due to step down, subject to regulatory approval.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The outcome will indicate how firmly IMDA treats unauthorised spectrum use by an operator, with possible sanctions reaching licence suspension or cancellation, and it arises from the review of Simba's proposed M1 acquisition.

Simba, the Singapore mobile operator, is not disputing a number of regulatory breaches, among them unauthorised use of spectrum and 5G equipment, according to its parent Tuas Limited on Tuesday 17 November 2026. Tuas told the ASX that Simba replied on Monday to a show cause notice the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) sent on 23 October. Tuas also said

Richard Tan is to resign from Simba's board if regulators approve, and new directors will be appointed.

Tuas had revealed in October that the notice contained six allegations, covering unauthorised spectrum use, breaches of telecommunications rules and worries about governance and compliance. Simba does not contest the allegations on unauthorised use of 2100 MHz spectrum for 4G, unauthorised use of the 2340-2360 MHz band, and unauthorised use of 5G indoor radio access network equipment. Tuas said these amounted to breaches of various Simba licences, along with a breach of the document production order. Simba has also briefed IMDA on the circumstances and on the steps it has taken to stop a repeat, Tuas said.

Tuas said IMDA is still considering the matter and has made no findings, so it will not comment further.

IMDA first made its investigation public in May, when a review of Simba's proposed S$1.43 billion purchase of rival M1 turned up a possible breach. It said Simba may have used frequency bands it had not been assigned to deliver mobile services, which, if proven, would contravene the Telecommunications Act and Simba's licence conditions. The regulator further alleged that the use was deliberate and signed off by senior management, and that Simba intentionally did not fully obey an order to hand over documents.

IMDA told CNA that Simba's response arrived on Monday, the deadline, and that it will examine whether it addresses everything under investigation. The regulator said it would then determine what action to take, saying: "We will then decide on the appropriate actions to be taken." Financial penalties could be up to 10 per cent of annual turnover of the relevant part of Simba's business, or S$1 million, whichever is greater. Other possible steps include suspending or cancelling spectrum rights or the telecommunications licence, shortening the licence term, or adding obligations to fix governance weaknesses.

REPORTING FROM

1 **CNA** · Simba does not contest unauthorised spectrum use, other licence breaches; director set to resign

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 7 OF 10

Tait and Māori-led TūĀtea team up to test LTE and 5G in New Zealand

TŪtea will give Tait Communications 40 MHz of n78 5G spectrum and 25 MHz of LTE band 40 for testing and validation under a new teaming agreement.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The agreement puts Māori-held spectrum to work in New Zealand testing of mission-critical broadband and narrowband convergence, giving Tait mid-band and LTE spectrum for validation.

Tait Communications has entered a teaming agreement with TŪtea, a Māori-led telecommunications organisation, to develop and validate the next generation of LTE and 5G technology in New Zealand. Critical Comms reported the agreement on Wednesday 18 November 2026.

For testing and validation, TŪtea will make 40 MHz in 5G band n78 available to Tait, along with 25 MHz in LTE band 40. Tait brings expertise in mission-critical communications, while TŪtea contributes LTE and 5G spectrum, national infrastructure and experience in broadband and network operations.

The two parties aim to push forward the convergence of narrowband and broadband, so that mission-critical voice and services can run alongside fast data and video. The work is understood to underpin future communications for public safety, utilities, transportation and enterprise users in New Zealand and elsewhere.

TŪtea describes its purpose as making sure spectrum assets and technology capability return lasting value to Māori, communities, industry and New Zealand. Tait CEO and Managing Director Dr Yoram Benit said the agreement was "a great example of combining capabilities to advance next-generation connectivity, strengthen New Zealand’s critical communications capability, support sustainable growth and create opportunities for Māori in the telecommunications industry".

Mike Jenkins, interim Pou Matua (Group Chief Executive) of TŪtea, said the deal puts Māori spectrum to use. He said the tie-up means "Māori play a leading role in shaping the future of wideband MCX technologies". Jenkins also said the partnership offers young people a clear route into skills development and participation in the mission-critical industry.

REPORTING FROM

1 **criticalcomms.com.au** · Tait partners with M[illegible]ed telco to develop next-gen comms

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 8 OF 10

One New Zealand picks Nokia autonomous network software, aiming for TM Forum Level 3 and 4

One New Zealand will deploy Nokia Assurance Center and the Autonomous Networks Data Suite to predict and fix network faults before customers notice, extending a 2025 inventory and orchestration deal.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The deal shows a trans-Tasman carrier moving from inventory and orchestration into predictive assurance, a path Australian operators facing flat revenue per user and rising data volumes are also pursuing through automation, according to RetailNews Asia.

One New Zealand has selected Nokia to supply autonomous network software, with the aim of progressing toward Level 3 and Level 4 autonomous network capabilities under the TM Forum framework. The operator will deploy Nokia Assurance Center and the Autonomous Networks Data Suite, backed by Nokia consulting and research and development co-creation services. telecoms.com reported the news on 12 November 2026.

Nokia says Assurance Center ingests and correlates network, service, subscriber and security data to trigger autonomous operations processes. The Data Suite catalogues network data in a standardised way so AI-native automation tools can use it more easily, according to telecoms.com. Nokia says the combination should let One NZ anticipate network conditions, decide faster and act before customers are affected.

Nokia describes its approach as glass-box, giving operations teams visibility into network activity, the reasoning behind automated decisions and how they are governed. Open interfaces and on-premises deployment options will let the operator build further AI and automation use cases while keeping control of its

data, models and operating environment.

The deal builds on One NZ's 2025 investments in Nokia Unified Inventory and Nokia Orchestration Center. Unified Inventory helps track the network in real time, while Orchestration Center automates the design, delivery and lifecycle management of services across multi-vendor, multi-technology networks, telecoms.com reported. RetailNews Asia said those earlier systems supply the asset catalogue the new assurance tools need.

Shkumbin Hamiti, head of autonomous networks at Nokia, said the ambition "is no longer simply to automate more tasks." Sharina Nisha, One NZ's chief technology officer, said the agreement builds on capabilities already in place to create "a stronger foundation for predictive, data-driven operations".

RetailNews Asia noted that One NZ has a network-sharing arrangement with 2degrees to pool radio access network infrastructure, and a separate agreement with Vodafone on network APIs. It also flagged the risk that false-positive corrective actions could disrupt subscribers if software misreads traffic spikes. Engineers from both companies are now integrating the tools into live environments, and RetailNews Asia said One NZ's certification timetable for Level 3 and Level 4 operations is the benchmark to watch.

REPORTING FROM

1. **RetailNews Asia** · One New Zealand Deploys Nokia AI Software Targeting Level 4 Autonomy
2. **telecoms.com** · Nokia bags One NZ network automation deal
3. **Telecom Review Asia** · One New Zealand Selects Nokia to Advance Autonomous Network Capabilities

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

WORLD 9 OF 10

US air traffic halted by router upgrade fault, prompting Australian resilience warning

A router installed by an FAA contractor set off a nationwide US ground stop lasting just under five hours. The Australian Computer Society says local operators of critical infrastructure should use the episode to test their own resilience.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The US event shows a routine router installation interacting with legacy equipment can knock out essential services without any attack, and Australia has seen comparable configuration failures at Optus and Telstra. The ACS wants tested backups and independent checks before major network changes go live.

Information Age reported that the US Federal Aviation Administration imposed a nationwide ground stop at about 7.30am AEDT on Saturday, after a fault linked to a network upgrade disrupted aircraft communications and radar feeds. Some 3,500 aircraft had to land and 12,462 flights were cancelled, while FlightAware tallied more than 25,000 delays. The FAA also asked its European counterparts to hold departures heading for the US.

Early reaction included fears of a repeat of the September 2001 airspace closures, but authorities instead blamed legacy equipment that had interfered with network communications. Investigators looked at a radar site in Amarillo, Texas and a radio site in El Dorado, Arkansas, where FAA contractor L3Harris was carrying out maintenance that included fitting a new router to the FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure network. According to the FAA, once the router was switched on in El Dorado, older equipment at Amarillo bombarded it with 1,000 connection attempts every 4 to 5 seconds.

The resulting instability touched 17 of the FAA's 22 Air Route Traffic Control Centers, plus several terminal radar approach controls. The FAA said the network settled after L3Harris blocked both locations, and it then switched off the offending feature on around 60 similar routers. The ground stop lifted after just under five hours, though airlines were still struggling with delays and cancellations days afterwards.

The outage has turned into a funding dispute in Washington. The FAA has been replacing legacy copper with fibre, and says it has replaced over 64 per cent of its legacy time division multiplexing network since the US$12.5 billion

Working Families Tax Cuts Act allocation. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy declined to apologise and said, "They gave me a system that needs to be fixed", adding that he needs more money to do the job. The fiscal 2027 request rose from US$22.4 billion in September to US$30.1 billion days before the ground stop, and was then raised to US$50 billion.

Information Age pointed to recent Australian configuration failures, including last year's Optus outage caused by a botched firewall upgrade and Telstra's Network Time Protocol server problem in July. Australian Computer Society CEO Dr Prins Ralston said the absence of a cyber attack should worry people more, because "it means ordinary technical failures can still bring essential services to a halt". He said the government should commission a national review of Australia's sovereign IT risk, stressing "tested backup arrangements, independent checks before major changes go live, and qualified people here in Australia with the authority to act".

REPORTING FROM

1 **Information Age (ACS)** · Router upgrade error brings US air traffic to a halt

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

WORLD 10 OF 10

Air New Zealand launches mobile service on One NZ's network

Air New Zealand began selling travel eSIMs and a prepaid monthly mobile plan on 12 November 2026, using One NZ's network. The travel plans cover more than 140 destinations and are data-only.

Best Effort desk · Wed 18 Nov 2026 · 5 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The launch adds another branded retailer on One NZ's network, showing the wholesale route that lets consumer brands sell mobile services without building infrastructure. Whether the domestic plan gains traction will depend on pricing and value, according to NZ Compare.

Air New Zealand has launched Air New Zealand Mobile, a service built with One NZ that sells travel eSIMs and a prepaid monthly plan for customers in New Zealand. It went live on 12 November 2026.

The travel eSIMs cover more than 140 destinations, and buyers can choose plans by destination and travel dates, including transit stops. They are open to customers of any mobile network and are aimed at both New Zealanders

heading overseas and visitors coming in. The plans are data-only, so calls and messages go through internet-based apps such as WhatsApp.

The domestic offer is a prepaid monthly plan bundling calls, texts and data, delivered over One NZ's network under the airline's brand. NZ Compare and Mobile Compare described it as a reseller arrangement rather than the airline building its own network. Prices and plan details are published on the Air New Zealand Mobile website. Flightdeck Report said the airline has not disclosed the commercial split, subscriber goals or pricing structure beyond that.

Chief customer and digital officer Jeremy O'Brien framed the product as a way to earn from daily connectivity rather than occasional flights. "People might fly with us a few times a year, but staying connected is something they need every day," he said. O'Brien also said the service gives the airline "a new revenue opportunity."

One NZ chief product and marketing officer Joe Goddard said demand for travel eSIMs keeps growing and that global revenue from them is expected to grow almost five-fold by 2030. NZ Compare said New Zealand's mobile market is already competitive, with Spark, One NZ and 2degrees alongside smaller prepaid and budget providers. It said the domestic plans do not look like the best value and carry no extra incentive such as Koru points, calling the move a "cash grab off the back of the brand". Scoop said the partnership is part of One NZ's effort to build a wider portfolio of branded mobile services, alongside a 10-year wholesale agreement with Advantai under which its Prvidr NZ business will provide the platform for MVNOs, with Boost Mobile the first brand.

REPORTING FROM

1 **scoop.co.nz** · Air New Zealand extends brand into telecoms
2 **NZ Compare** · Air New Zealand Mobile
3 **Mobile Compare** · Air New Zealand Mobile
4 **Flightdeck Report** · Air New Zealand Launches eSIM and Mobile Service with One NZ
5 **TravelWires** · Air New Zealand Launches Its Own Mobile Service With One NZ

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