Best Effort.

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

TODAY'S BRIEFING

Friday 20 November 2026

- Aussie Broadband closed its AGL Telco deal on 15 June 2026 and crossed one million broadband connections, while Superloop reported FY26 net profit of $17.5 million and held FY27 EBITDA guidance at $148 million to $156 million.
- On policy, a new Act obliges Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom to provide outdoor voice and SMS nationwide from 1 December 2027.
- Data centre scrutiny grew: Tasmania rejected a moratorium and the Energy Council urged mandatory bonds for grid connections.

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POLICY & REGULATION 1 OF 13

Outdoor mobile coverage duty for big three is law, but starts December 2027

A new Act that commenced on 27 October 2026 obliges Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom to provide outdoor voice and SMS nationwide, though the duty only bites from 1 December 2027 unless the Minister moves the date.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The three major carriers now face a statutory coverage duty, but its timing hinges on satellite readiness and ministerial discretion, while domestic roaming remains a question for the ACCC.

Legislation creating a Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation took effect on 27 October 2026 as the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Act 2026. The central coverage requirement, however, does not apply until December 2027. The Act changes three existing laws: the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, the Telecommunications Act 1997 and the Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999.

Once the obligation starts, the major carriers will have to deliver baseline outdoor voice and SMS across the whole country, including places with no mobile coverage now. Telstra, Optus and TPG Telecom are the default responsible providers from the start date. Minister Anika Wells has the power to name further carriers or providers, satellite operators among them, for specific areas. Carriers are expected to meet the duty by pairing their existing towers with direct-to-device satellite services that link ordinary handsets to low-Earth-orbit satellites. Land-based networks currently reach only about a third of the country's landmass.

The default start date is 1 December 2027. After consulting the three carriers, the Minister may move it earlier or delay it in 12-month steps, up to three times, which could push it as late as 2030 if satellite technology is not ready.

The Act also lets the Minister impose a temporary roaming framework during natural disasters. Law firm King & Wood Mallesons reported that on 29 October 2026 the Minister found the telcos' own disaster roaming arrangements sufficient, so no government framework will apply in the 2026-27 high-risk weather season.

The Minister can now set mandatory standards for mobile service quality and reliability, a power described as new. They are due within three months of the ACCC releasing the final report of its mobile services inquiry, and when made they will extend to smaller providers such as MVNOs.

The Act sets a process for deciding whether domestic roaming should be regulated. Before any roaming service is declared, the Minister must ask the ACCC to weigh consumer benefits against effects on investment and competition, so roaming is not mandated. Consumer groups including ACCAN have criticised the law for failing to deliver immediate protections on compensation, reliability and domestic roaming.

REPORTING FROM

1 **NewsCop** · Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation Is Law: 4 Big Wins for Mobile Users

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

DATA CENTRES 2 OF 13

WinDC and Armada plan 3GW AI network across Australia and NZ under US export program

WinDC and Armada want to build up to 3GW of AI computing capacity at about 40 sites by the end of the decade, with the companies putting potential investment above US$30 billion under a US export scheme.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 2 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The plan points to AI capacity being sited beside regional generation rather than in metropolitan data centre precincts, and ties an Australian build to US export licensing and finance support, though the figures are the companies' own estimates of potential investment.

Australian modular data centre developer WinDC and its US partner Armada have set out a plan for up to 3GW of AI computing capacity spread over about 40 sites in Australia and New Zealand by the end of the decade. The pair put the total potential investment at more than US$30 billion, of which more than US$20 billion would go on Armada equipment made in the United States. Stage one is 11MW across five Australian states, and a further 230MW is slated for 2027.

The scheme sits within a US Government export effort: Armada holds Priority Team Leader status in the American SI Exports Program, and the WinDC Australian build forms part of its export plans. Business News Australia reported that the US Department of Commerce runs the program, and that participating consortia receive government advocacy, faster export licence handling at the Bureau of Industry and Security and priority access to federal financing referrals. WinDC and Armada also plan to look at financing for later stages, including through the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

WinDC would place factory-built modules at or beside wind and solar farms and other generators, avoiding metropolitan hubs where WinDC says grid limits and slow construction are a growing problem. WinDC says each Armada Leviathan unit delivers up to 2MW, and it is aiming for roughly 90 days from start to deployment where sites, power and approvals are already sorted. Armada's platform can tie several sites together into one distributed network.

The agreement between the companies cites more than seven terawatt-hours of utility-scale wind and solar output curtailed in the National Electricity Market in 2025. WinDC argues that placing modules next to generators lets it take power the grid cannot fully absorb. Chief executive Andrew Sjoquist said the project was "an opportunity to bring substantial investment into regional Australia, create economic activity around energy generation sites, and turn Australian energy into computing capacity that can be sold to customers around the world."

The companies frame the network as an export business, and WinDC points to Western Australia, whose energy resources and subsea cables it says give reach to Southeast Asia, India and the Middle East. WinDC said Southeast Asian markets of at least 500 million people lie within about 50 milliseconds of computing infrastructure on the west coast. Sjoquist said US backing "puts us at the front of the queue at a time when every nation on earth is competing for computing capacity".

Armada heads the American Sovereign SI Stack consortium with Dell Technologies and Microsoft, which pairs its modules with Dell compute and storage and Microsoft's Azure Local and Foundry Local software. Armada makes its hardware at Galleon Forge One in Gilbert, Arizona, and at the March announcement the companies said production would move to Australia once WinDC reaches a defined number of units here. WinDC commissioned its first unit with Armada in January, and the 11MW deployment, announced in March, targets wind, solar and battery sites in NSW, elsewhere in the NEM and in Western Australia.

REPORTING FROM

1 **DataCenterNews Asia Pacific** · WinDC & Armada unveil USD $30 billion AI factories
2 **businessnewsaustralia.com** · WinDC and Armada eye US$30b AI factory network

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

POLICY & REGULATION 3 OF 13

ACMA changes rules on blocking phones that cannot reach Triple Zero

The ACMA has amended the rules requiring telcos to block mobile phones unable to connect to Triple Zero, so phones that can be fixed or have a temporary fault are no longer blocked unnecessarily. The updated rules take effect on 1 February 2027.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Carriers will need to build remediation and customer-information processes, and a way to share affected-handset data with each other, before the rules start on 1 February 2027.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has updated the industry rules that require telcos to identify and block mobile phones unable to access the Triple Zero service. The amended rules come into effect on 1 February 2027.

The original rules were introduced in 2024 after the final shutdown of Australia's 3G networks, and required telcos to block handsets that could not connect to Triple Zero. The ACMA said further testing and experience since then showed that some affected phones can be fixed, while others may be affected only by a temporary network problem. The changes are intended to stop phones being blocked unnecessarily where a solution exists or the problem is short-lived.

Under the new rules, telcos must work out whether a phone can be remediated and, if so, complete the remediation steps as soon as practicable instead of blocking the phone outright. Where a service may be blocked, telcos must give customers information on available solutions, including how to obtain another phone and where to find further help. Telcos will also have to share information about affected phones with other telcos, which the ACMA said will support consistent action across the industry when a phone is found unable to reach Triple Zero.

The ACMA consulted publicly on the proposed changes in August 2026 and revised some aspects of the amendments after receiving stakeholder submissions. It will publish website guidance for industry and consumers to support implementation.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Australian Communications and Media Authority** · ACMA updates mobile phone blocking rules for telcos

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

POLICY & REGULATION 4 OF 13

ACCAN accuses telcos of lobbying to weaken ACMA's draft mobile sales Standard

The peak consumer body says industry is pushing for narrower remedies and softer restrictions in the ACMA's draft Standard. The Fair Call Coalition wants the regulator to finalise the rules promptly.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The final Standard will shape how carriers and retailers sell mobile plans, assess credit and handle disconnections, with the 2019 Code applying until it commences.

ACCAN, the peak consumer body for communications, has criticised telco industry lobbying aimed at softening the ACMA's draft enforceable Standard for mobile consumers. It made the statement on 18 November 2026.

ACCAN chief executive Carol Bennett said the industry had in effect authored the earlier consumer protection code, which failed to stop mis-selling and led to ACCC fines running to hundreds of millions of dollars. She said that and other serious breaches of trust led the ACMA to reject self-regulation earlier this year in favour of an enforceable Standard. Bennett said the industry was now "pushing back arguing there should be narrower remedies and a watering down of other restrictions".

ACCAN and other groups in the Fair Call Coalition named four critical areas in their submission on the draft. They are a ban on sales incentives, a significant lift in credit assessments, and stronger remedies and disconnection protections. The coalition said its recommendations draw on evidence from financial counsellors, community lawyers and caseworkers who help people after mis-selling, disconnection or a lack of remedy.

Bennett said the industry appeared to have learned nothing from the fines and was trying to avoid its responsibility to protect customers better. She said calls for weaker protections after years of misconduct "should go down like a lead balloon with the public".

ACCAN cited its Consumer Sentiment Tracker, run by Essential Research, which found 22 per cent of consumers felt pushed into a pricier plan than they wanted. The tracker also found that more than 1 in 3 had faced unexpected changes to their contracts. ACCAN pointed to Federal Court penalties of $50 million for Telstra in 2021 and $100 million for Optus in 2025, over unconscionable conduct in sales and debt collection. According to ACCAN, First Nations, disabled and regional consumers were among the worst affected.

Fair Call wants the ACMA to finalise the Standard promptly and hold out against industry pressure. The 2019 Code remains in force until the Standard commences.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Medianet** · Critical, long overdue consumer protections on mobiles now at risk
2 **Mirage News** · Long-Overdue Mobile Consumer Protections at Risk
3 **ACCAN** · Critical, long overdue consumer protections on mobiles now at risk

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

DATA CENTRES 5 OF 13

Tasmania rejects data centre moratorium despite lower house vote of 17 to 13

The Tasmanian government says it will not pause major AI data centre projects, even though a non-binding Greens motion calling for a moratorium passed the lower house with Labor's support.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Tasmania is emerging as a site for AI data centre load, and the vote shows parliamentary opposition tied to energy supply, community concerns and transparency, even as the government pushes ahead. The government expects operators to bring their own renewable energy, and the timing gap between data centre and wind farm construction is now a stated concern within the government itself.

The Tasmanian government has refused to act on a moratorium on new AI data centres after the lower house passed a Greens motion calling for one, ABC News reported. The motion passed 17 votes to 13, backed by the Greens, Labor and six independents. It is non-binding, so the government has no obligation to act. A government spokesperson said: "The Tasmanian Government opposes a moratorium on data centres and won't be doing it."

Firmus Technologies has one data centre under construction in Launceston and plans for two more in the state's north, at Wesley Vale and Long Reach near Bell Bay. The government is also in confidential talks over a further six data centres, and the proponents have not been named. The proposals have drawn community opposition over noise, water and electricity use, environmental impacts and a lack of transparency, and some locals near the Wesley Vale site are protesting.

The dispute carried into question time on Thursday, when Greens MP Tabatha Badger challenged Premier Jeremy Rockliff over the refusal. Badger told the chamber: "We can do this the easy way or we can do it the hard way." Rockliff responded by asking whether that was a threat. He argued that a moratorium would cost the state an opportunity for growth. Rockliff said the state had the chance of "a new industry, a clean industry, that will buy our power and Hydro's power and fund the essential services that we all care about".

Independent MP George Razay questioned whether the state had the infrastructure to support the projects, given the government expects operators to supply their own renewable energy. He said an additional 500 megawatts of demand would need 1,500 megawatts of wind generation, which he put at three times Tasmania's current installed wind capacity. Energy Minister Nick Duigan acknowledged the timing problem, as a data centre can be built faster than a wind farm, but said this should not detract from a "profound opportunity" for the state.

Duigan said Firmus would become the largest energy consumer in the state, paying market rates and paying for its transmission up front while also bringing transmission down the network. He said the centres would be managed responsibly and in a way that does not threaten energy security. Duigan described the offer as very compelling and said it should not be squandered through fearmongering and mistruths.

REPORTING FROM

1 **ABC News** · Premier refuses to enact data centre halt after motion passes lower house

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

DATA CENTRES 6 OF 13

Community opposition to datacentres gathers pace as NSW inquiry drops moratorium call

Local campaigns have seen datacentre proposals withdrawn in Western Australia and NSW and a Melbourne expansion stalled, while a NSW inquiry removed recommendations for a pause on approvals, Guardian Australia reported.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Local opposition is now delaying or ending projects, and in states where fast-tracked approvals bypass councils, campaigners are targeting state and federal policy instead, so developers face added approval and consultation risk until the proposed federal rules take effect.

Community opposition to datacentres in Australia has moved from the margins to the mainstream in about five months, according to Guardian Australia, with campaigners claiming wins in three states. In the Southern Highlands of NSW, Wingecaribee councillor Heather Champion saw a March motion opposing a large gas plant for a datacentre fail, but a later motion calling for a federal moratorium on new datacentres passed unanimously. Champion said the council's change in perspective was "a direct result of the change in sentiment in the community".

Guardian Australia reported on three projects in May: Hazelmere in Western Australia, West Footscray in Victoria and Lane Cove in NSW. The proposals in WA and NSW have since been withdrawn, including Goodman Group's Mars datacentre in Lane Cove. NextDC's M3 expansion at West Footscray has stalled after power provider Jemena delayed installing taller power poles following the community outcry.

In the Southern Highlands, the refusal of an application for one of three gas plants, which together could produce 673MW, is being contested in the NSW land and environment court. The applicant, Cloud Carrier, wants the plant to supply a data campus at Moss Vale. Lane Cove Responsible Planning spokesperson Sasha Titchkosky is working with groups in western Sydney and the Southern Highlands on their own campaigns. Champion described the networks as sharing skills and messages in a way that is "very lateral and it's very informal". In Victoria, a community wiki maps datacentre proposals and organising groups, and links to campaign tips from US groups that lobbied against the sector in the recent midterm elections. University of Sydney student

Mandy Ottaviano, who has researched the movement, said there is no formal organisation and no sign yet of a national coalition.

The federal government has proposed rules that from next year would set mandatory minimum requirements for large datacentres covering energy, water, costs, community engagement, location and workforce impacts. In NSW and Victoria, fast-tracked approvals skip the local council stage. Campaigners say the changes do not go far enough. The NSW parliamentary inquiry's report, released earlier this month, saw the committee vote to remove recommendations that the government advocate for a moratorium until new obligations are in place and for the federal rules to apply retrospectively. Chair and Greens MP Abigail Boyd was the only member to support them, and wrote that "both the Labor and Liberal parties remain in hock to the industry talking points". Champion said it "feels like a real cop-out to be honest".

Industry body Data Centres Australia acknowledged there is more community interest than before. Chief executive Belinda Dennett said companies are stepping up consultation through information sessions, door knocking, newsletters and hotlines. Titchkosky said she expects the same issues seen in the US midterms to play out in Victoria and NSW at their upcoming elections.

REPORTING FROM

1 **the Guardian** · ‘Communities are really angry’: how datacentre opposition has gone from marginal to mainstream in five months | Datacentres

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

DATA CENTRES 7 OF 13

EPA notice over NEXTDC M3 noise as West Footscray residents consider leaving

Victoria's EPA issued NEXTDC an improvement notice in June over noise at its M3 data centre in Melbourne's west, and residents say humming, alarms and slamming gates continue. NEXTDC says it has complied with the notice.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Community opposition to a data centre near homes has coincided with a cut to NEXTDC's earnings guidance and a fall in its share price, showing how noise and power upgrade disputes can affect build timelines.

Residents around NEXTDC's M3 data centre in West Footscray say loud noise day and night is pushing them to consider leaving the suburb, Yahoo News Australia reported on 19 November 2026. The facility is within 14 metres of some homes and is expanding quickly.

In June, Victoria's Environment Protection Authority issued NEXTDC an improvement notice over a noise problem at the site. The EPA has declined to provide information, describing it as an "active compliance matter", and a freedom of information request from Greenpeace Australia Pacific was also refused. NEXTDC did not respond directly to Yahoo's questions about the cause and timing of the sound or the action taken. In an emailed statement through a PR company, it said it had complied with the notice, put mitigation measures in place and would keep working with the EPA.

Local resident Sean Brown said getting information from state authorities or NextDC had been a "struggle". He suspects the sound under EPA scrutiny is a low hum from the heating and cooling plant, which he said was audible 100 metres away and never stopped. He no longer takes his two-year-old son to nearby Stony Creek and plans to sell, likely at a loss.

Brown said the hum has been dampened since temporary cladding was installed, but the 24/7 site still produces other noise. "Alarms go off, gates get slammed," he said.

The dispute has also had a commercial effect. In October, NEXTDC's share price fell by 42 per cent after it cut its earnings guidance, citing delays to upgrades following direct action by residents in Yarraville. Residents there blocked Jemena's planned installation of 15-metre-high industrial power poles to supply M3 with more energy, using bins and cars, and forced a retreat.

Greenpeace's head of climate and energy, Joe Rafalowicz, said the improvement notice was a "clear sign" of what happens when "AI data centre expansion is allowed to run wild without strict guardrails". He called on the federal government to introduce a moratorium on new data centres until community and climate impacts are legislated.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Yahoo News Australia** · Residents woken up by banging at 2am and 'persistent' humming as Aussie suburb plagued

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 8 OF 13

Aussie Broadband closes AGL Telco deal and passes one million broadband connections

Aussie Broadband's FY26 annual report says it finished four transactions in six months, including AGL Telco on 15 June 2026, and crossed one million broadband connections.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The AGL Telco and More and Tangerine migrations shift a large volume of NBN and mobile services onto Aussie's network, as the company aims for NBN market share above 17 per cent by FY28.

Aussie Broadband finished buying AGL Telco on 15 June 2026 and signed a long-term strategic partnership with AGL Energy, its annual report for the year to 30 June 2026 says. The company expects the acquisition to bring across 350,000 NBN and mobile connections, which will move onto its network during the first half of FY27, and to generate $21 million in underlying EBITDA over the first 12 months after migration. The partnership also opens up AGL's 4.2 million customers, and Aussie wants to build its telecommunications connections through that channel to 500,000 over time.

The Chair and Group CEO's report points to four strategic transactions completed inside six months and the largest migration of connections the NBN has seen. The company also moved past one million broadband connections. The group is made up of Aussie Broadband, Symbio and Nexgen, runs two Tier-1 voice providers in Australia and owns fibre infrastructure.

Customers of More Telecom and Tangerine Telecom have also been migrated under an exclusive Wholesale Services Agreement, with about 269,000 active services on Aussie's network by 30 June 2026. Aussie expects that agreement to contribute $12 million in annualised underlying EBITDA from FY27. It also acquired Nexgen and sold Digital Sense Hosting.

The report frames the deals as part of the Look-to-28 ambitions, which the company upgraded in February 2026. For FY28 it is targeting group revenue above $2 billion, Residential at less than 60 per cent of revenue, an EBITDA margin over 13.5 per cent, NBN market share above 17 per cent with roughly 1.5 million connections, and compound annual EPS growth above 30 per cent. Net debt to EBITDA was 0.9x at the end of June 2026, which the company says leaves it room to pursue growth.

The report includes the company's first mandatory climate-related disclosure, and its annual general meeting is set for 23 October 2026.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Aussie Broadband** · Download annual report

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 9 OF 13

Optus adds 11 generators on Yorke Peninsula ahead of severe weather season

Optus is installing 11 semi-permanent generators on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula and adding portable satellite gear across the state before bushfire and storm season. It says the work is part of a national program that has added 200 generators since February.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Power loss at mobile sites is a recurring resilience risk for regional networks, and Optus is responding with more backup power and satellite-linked mobile capacity in South Australia.

Optus is putting 11 semi-permanent generators at key sites on the Yorke Peninsula and bringing more portable satellite equipment to South Australia before the severe weather season. The company linked the spending to last summer, when shutdowns of electricity transmission put mobile coverage on the peninsula at risk.

In those events Optus placed portable generators at sites before the planned shutdowns and flew in technicians from interstate to help local crews. The company said customers kept their mobile connections with minimal disruption.

The company is also adding FlyAway Kits, satellite communications gear that can be moved to and set up in remote locations. Its LeoSat Cells on Wheels are trailer-mounted mobile base stations that link to low-Earth-orbit satellites for extra capacity during major disasters or long network disruptions. Satellite base stations that are fully portable can be pre-positioned before an emergency, or sent in where damaged infrastructure can't be fixed quickly. Batteries and extra portable generators are meant to keep existing mobile sites running through

power cuts.

Optus South Australia Local General Manager David Johns said the semi-permanent generators at core Yorke Peninsula sites "will help us respond more quickly to the power interruptions experienced in the region". Optus said it is working with South Australia's emergency management authorities on responses in bushfire-affected areas, including places where public access may be restricted.

The South Australian work sits within a national preparedness program, under which Optus has invested in 200 additional generators nationwide since February, plus battery upgrades at high-risk sites. Optus is also advising customers to keep phones charged and updated, carry a power bank, note down emergency numbers and agree backup ways to contact family and neighbours.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Glam Adelaide** · Eleven new back-up generators installed as Optus readies for severe weather

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

POLICY & REGULATION 10 OF 13

Energy Council urges mandatory bonds for data centre grid connections

The Australian Energy Council wants the AEMC to require security from large loads and stop networks passing poorly managed connection risk to consumers, with data centre demand forecast to triple by 2030.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

How the AEMC settles these rules will help decide whether data centre developers or the wider customer base bear the risk if forecast load does not appear, and how readily networks can connect large loads.

The Australian Energy Council (AEC) is pushing for compulsory financial security from large electricity users such as data centres, so that grid upgrade costs and risks are not left with other consumers. It made the case in a submission on two rule change requests about recovering network augmentation costs, which the Australian Government lodged and the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) initiated on 24 September. The requests aim to prevent consumers unfairly carrying costs or risks created

by data centre connections.

The rule changes follow the May 2026 decision on data centres by the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council. A separate strand of that work will oblige data centres to contract for new renewable generation and firming. The network rules are one part of a wider reform package expected to run into late 2027.

Demand growth explains the focus. AEMO's 2026 Electricity Statement of Opportunities estimates data centre electricity use could triple by 2030, from about 5 terawatt-hours now to around 15 TWh. Most of the load is expected in NSW and Victoria, with growth projected through to 2045, and serving it will need major network upgrades.

On upstream costs, the AEC sees a possible gap in the existing framework. It said a large load on a distribution network can trigger or bring forward transmission investment without paying an appropriate share. Its starting principle is that a connecting party should pay the incremental network costs that it demonstrably causes or accelerates. The council accepted this will not always be simple, since an augmentation may serve one connection, several, or wider demand growth, and said AER guidelines could help networks apply a consistent approach.

The AEC said prudential protections are optional under the current rules and therefore do not adequately protect consumers. It argued that a network expecting to recover an unsecured shortfall through its regulated asset base (RAB) may offer softer terms to win a connection. The council proposed an entry bond at application, with clear forfeiture triggers and a dispute-resolution process, to be returned when a connection agreement is executed. It also wants security to cover connection assets and upstream augmentation costs, through pre-payment or a guarantee from an investment-grade entity, applied according to load size rather than industry.

The AEC also wants networks to keep a strong incentive to manage connection risk. It suggested the AEMC consider barring RAB reallocation for customer-specific assets above a capital threshold aligned with the large-load threshold for security. Any reallocation would cover only the genuinely shared portion of an asset, and only if the AER is satisfied of material shared use, the network took all reasonable steps to recover costs from the connecting party, and the network keeps a share of the residual cost. Cost recovery for exceptional and unforeseen events could remain available after an AER assessment against defined criteria.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Australian Energy Council** · Data centre connections: Who should carry the network risk?

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 11 OF 13

Superloop AGM: FY26 profit of $17.5m, FY27 EBITDA guidance held at $148m to $156m

Superloop told its annual general meeting on 19 November 2026 that net profit rose to $17.5 million in FY26 and customers reached 935,000. Shareholders carried every resolution, and the company is targeting more than $1 billion in revenue by FY29.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 5 sources · 2 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

Superloop is growing its share of nbn customers while building owned fibre in multi-dwelling and new-development communities, which gives it recurring revenue that does not depend on nbn wholesale terms. The Chair pointed to changes in the nbn operating environment and greater regulatory attention to resilience and consumer protection as reasons for demand for reliable alternatives.

Superloop reported net profit after tax of $17.5 million for FY26, up from $1.2 million a year earlier, at its annual general meeting in Sydney on 19 November 2026. Underlying EBITDA grew 33 per cent to $122.7 million, and reported revenue was $664 million. Customers reached 935,000, up 28 per cent, after 205,000 new customers were added during the year.

Chair Peter O'Connell said FY26 completed the three-year Double Down strategy and delivered a second consecutive year of profit. He said the company is also generating the cash to support further investment. EBITDA cash conversion was 101 per cent, according to the CEO presentation. Over the Double Down period the share price rose 469 per cent, against a 24 per cent rise in the ASX 200 Index, the Chair said.

Consumer, Business and Wholesale all grew, and the presentation put the group's nbn market share at 8.5 per cent, up 1.9 per cent. Consumer revenue rose 27 per cent, business revenue rose 8 per cent and wholesale revenue rose 19 per cent. The opex-to-revenue ratio improved to 13.5 per cent.

The company bought Frontier Networks and Lynham Networks, which trades as Lightning Broadband, during the year. With organic wins, these lifted the Smart Communities footprint to around 190,000 contracted lots, which the Chair said are expected to convert into recurring revenue over time. O'Connell said the focus is now on integrating the businesses and realising the expected benefits.

For FY27, Superloop reaffirmed underlying EBITDA guidance of $148 million to $156 million and capital expenditure guidance of $58 million to $62 million, first issued in a trading update dated 10 November 2026. Under its Supercharge29 strategy, the company is targeting group revenue above $1 billion, underlying EBITDA of $200 million and reported EPS compound annual growth above 30 per cent by FY29. The company said these FY29 targets are not guidance and are subject to assumptions and contingencies.

All resolutions at the meeting were decided by poll and carried. They included the remuneration report, the re-election of four directors, and approval of 1,932,741 shares to be issued to Origin Energy. Re-election of Drew Kelton drew the largest vote against of the director items, at 14.59 per cent of proxy votes.

REPORTING FROM

1 **Superloop** · CEO Presentation
2 **Superloop** · Chair Address
3 **Superloop** · Results of 2026 AGM
4 **Bell Wire** · Superloop Reaffirms FY27 EBITDA Guidance of $148M–$156M at AGM
5 **FilingReader** · Superloop reports profit surge, unveils billion-dollar FY29 growth strategy

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 12 OF 13

One NZ completes first 5G Standalone test call on Ericsson core

One NZ announced on 16 November 2026 that its chief technology officer and chief executive have completed a first 5G Standalone test call. No commercial launch date has been given.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 3 sources · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

The call shows a New Zealand operator shifting focus from 5G coverage rollout to core architecture changes aimed at enterprise services such as network slicing, although no launch date or footprint has been given.

One NZ has placed its first test call over 5G Standalone, a network design that runs on a dedicated 5G core. Chief Technology Officer Sharina Nisha called Chief Executive Nick Judd, and the company announced the result on 16 November 2026.

Existing 5G services lean on parts of the 4G core, whereas Standalone no longer depends on it. Telecom Gazette characterised the call as engineering validation rather than a commercial launch, and said One NZ offered no go-live date. One NZ said more development, integration and testing is under way before Standalone services can be sold.

The work forms part of a multi-year core network modernisation program with Ericsson. TelcoNews reported that the Swedish vendor is supplying its cloud-native 5G Core technology. Telecom Gazette noted that migrating a core is slow and risky, because operators must rework signalling, subscriber management and interworking with 4G infrastructure before paying customers are served.

One NZ sees business services as the main opening, led by network slicing, which carves dedicated virtual networks out of a shared physical network. It listed connected machinery, precision agriculture, events, logistics and manufacturing as candidate uses. Nisha said 5G Standalone "allows us to think beyond traditional mobile connectivity". She said the company will be able to match network features to business needs, such as responsiveness for industrial automation or steadier performance for critical operations. Telecom Gazette observed that slices are often sold at a premium, making them a revenue opportunity for the carrier and not only a consumer speed upgrade.

Ludvig Landgren, Head of Ericsson New Zealand and Australia, said the milestone reflects "the strong collaboration between our teams". He said the Ericsson core would let One NZ offer services differentiated for New Zealand businesses and industries.

REPORTING FROM

1. **scoop.co.nz** · One NZ Completes First 5G Standalone Call, Paving The Way For Next-generation Connectivity
2. **TelcoNews New Zealand** · One NZ completes first 5G Standalone test call
3. **Telecom Gazette** · One NZ Completes First 5G Standalone Call

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

CARRIERS & NETWORKS 13 OF 13

CFA pager network reported down, affecting volunteer fire call-outs in Victoria

The Country Fire Authority's pager system, used to alert volunteers to Triple Zero fire calls, went down at 8.48am on Thursday 19 November 2026, according to a volunteer who contacted VicNews.

Best Effort desk · Fri 20 Nov 2026 · 1 source · 1 min read

WHY IT MATTERS

An outage in the paging system that carries Triple Zero fire calls to volunteers raises resilience questions for emergency alerting, although the cause and extent of the failure have not been reported.

The Country Fire Authority's pager dispatch system in Victoria crashed on Thursday 19 November 2026, VicNews reported, citing a CFA volunteer who contacted the outlet. It is understood the system went down at 8.48am, and the volunteer's message reached VicNews at 9.01am.

The pagers are used to alert volunteers to fire calls made through Triple Zero, so they can leave home, work or the farm and get to their local fire station. VicNews noted that on a high-risk fire danger day an outage of this kind could cause serious problems and put lives and homes at risk.

VicNews said it was not yet clear whether the outage also affected dispatch services for Fire Rescue Victoria, the State Emergency Service and Ambulance Victoria. It said it had contacted the CFA, FRV and communications authorities for clarification.

REPORTING FROM

1 **VicNews** · CFA pager network down

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