



Australian Government

Department of Communications and the Arts

Our Reference: MC15-008054

Mr Graham Rabe
275B Nicholson Road
Shenton Park
Perth WA 6008

Dear Mr Rabe

Internet resilience

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2015 to the Minister for Communications, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, where you sought information regarding internet networks and the resilience of communications infrastructure in Australia. The Minister has asked the Department to reply on his behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) publishes information about telecommunications networks and their operation. Some pertinent information can be found at <http://www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/communications/monitoring-reporting/telecommunications-reports-record-keeping-rules#record-keeping-rules>. The Australian Communications and Media Authority also provides information about telecommunications carriers and carriage service providers which can be found on its website, including at <http://www.acma.gov.au/Home/Industry/Telco/Carriers%20and%20service%20providers>

The Australian Government takes a cooperative/partnership approach with industry to ensure the continued operation of our critical infrastructure in the face of all hazards, including cyber intrusions. The Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) for Critical Infrastructure Resilience is Australia's primary national engagement mechanism for business-government information sharing and resilience building initiatives to identify and address security and business continuity challenges. The TISN is a component of the Australian Government's Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy, which can be found at www.tisn.gov.au

The Government is considering amendments to legislation (the Telecommunications Sector Security Reforms) which, if passed by Parliament, will provide a framework for supporting a closer relationship between telecommunications providers and security agencies to facilitate information sharing. The proposed legislation would oblige telecommunications providers to take steps to protect the confidentiality of information carried across and stored on networks. Further information on the proposed telecommunication sector security reforms can be found at www.ag.gov.au/telcosecurity

It is the Australian Government's policy to facilitate infrastructure sharing and to provide wholesale access to services to promote the long term interests of end-users. Under Schedule 1 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, Australian carriers must provide other carriers with access to facilities for the purpose of enabling the other carriers to provide competitive facilities and competitive carriage services. The Australian government also encourages co-location of facilities where this is feasible to do so.

In your correspondence, you referred to the design of the national broadband network (nbn). NBN Co – the owner and operator of the nbn, places a very high priority in the reliability and strength of its network. For example, the nbn has been designed with 126 Points of Interconnect (POI) which are the inter-network location where traffic is exchanged between one network and another. The ACCC considers that this semi-distributed model is in the long-term interests of end-users. Fundamental to this model is that the POIs are located where there is competing, and as a result redundant, backhaul infrastructure. Information about nbn's POIs can be found at <http://www.finder.com.au/nbn-tracker/poi/2ALB>

In addition to terrestrial telecommunications infrastructure, NBN Co will provide satellite services for Australians living in regional and remote Australia. The first of the two nbn satellites was launched successfully on 1 October 2015. Following a period of testing, people in regional and remote Australia will start receiving nbn satellite services from May 2016. The two nbn satellites will provide unprecedented coverage and capacity. The second nbn satellite will be launched later in 2016.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Brian Kelleher
Assistant Secretary Infrastructure Security and Resilience

31 March 2016