Australian Connectivity Showcase

Building a Resilient and Connected Future for Australia

Wednesday, 31 July 2024
Rex Hotel, Canberra

Event Overview

The Australian Government is on a digital transformation journey to create seamless experiences for everyone in Australia. A key enabler of this digital transformation journey is connectivity. It ensures we have a strong economy able to grow, a modern and smart government, and resilient and safe communities.

Key focuses for connectivity include:

- Ensuring that modern, high-speed digital networks are available to all people, businesses, emergency services, and government across the country

- Equitable access to connectivity for all people living in major cities, as well as regions, rural and remote areas

- Bridging the digital divide not only in varying socio-economic areas but also amongst people in different demographics or ethnic backgrounds

The **Australian Connectivity Showcase** will bring together government (federal, state, and local), industry, academia, and emergency services to showcase nationwide programs and opportunities for collaboration in enabling a digital Australia.

This full-day, in-person showcase features government keynotes, thought leadership panel discussions, industry exhibitions, and valuable networking opportunities. The showcase will amplify discussions to explore the benefits of connectivity strategies in the pipeline and how they will bring world-class, affordable, and resilient connectivity to Australia.

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Who You'll Meet

This series is designed for professionals involved in:

- Government Regulation
- Information Technology
- Network Architecture and Engineering
- Broadband
- Mobile Network Operation
- Telecommunications
- Connectivity Researchers and Academics
- Connectivity End Users

Key Themes

Strategy and Policy: What are the plans in the pipeline for the Australia's connectivity strategy? What is the Telecommunications Review highlighting?

Planning and Implementation: How can government and service providers collaborate? What are the missing links?

Technical: What do telco providers need to consider? What are the opportunities for infrastructure engineers and telcos to connect?

Benefits of Attending

Networking: Attendees will connect and engage with industry leaders, experts, and peers.

Stay up to date: Gain informed and knowledge on the latest trends, best practices, and advancements in policy, planning, and technology related to digital connectivity.

Insightful discussions: Participate in insightful discussions, plenary sessions, and breakout sessions, that will delve into the current challenges and opportunities in the industry.

Hear from industry leaders: Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from key players in the field, including government agencies, Mobile Network Operators, and solution providers.

Access to new technologies: The Australian Connectivity Showcase provides a platform for attendees to explore the latest products, services and innovations in the field of digital connectivity.

Opportunities to collaborate: The conference provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with other stakeholders and create meaningful partnerships that can drive digital connectivity initiatives forward.

Your Inspiring Speakers

ATSUKO OKUDA

Regional Director

ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

SAMUEL GRUNHARD

First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

ALANNAH MACTIERNAN

Chair

Regional Telecommunications Review 2024

LISA LA RANCE

First Assistant Secretary of the Communications Infrastructure Division

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

BRENDAN DOWLING

Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

IAN OPPERMANN

Director

Connectivity Innovation Network

MEGHAN HIBBERT

Assistant Secretary, Regional Connectivity Branch

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts

PETER ADAMS

Group Director, Strategic Projects and Service Delivery

Department of Regional NSW

MATTHEW DUMMETT

Director, Telecommunications

Department of Government Services (VIC)

KYLIE DE COURTENEY

Managing Director

NSW Telco Authority

ZOE MALONE

Senior Director Telecommunications

Department of Corporate and Digital, Northern Territory Government

SHANE FITZSIMMONS

Board Chair, **NSW Connectivity Innovation Network,** *Former Chair and Member,* **NSW Telco Authority**

Commissioner, **Resilience NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service**

Agenda at a glance

Time	Session
7.30am	**Registration for Breakfast Opens**
7.45am	**Networking Breakfast**
8:15am	**Registration for Conference Opens**
8:45am	**Networking Breakfast Concludes**
9:00am	**Welcome from Public Sector Network and Acknowledgement of Country**
9:10am	**Welcome from the Chair**
9:20am	**Opening Address**
9:30am	**International Keynote: Sharing Rural Connectivity Strategies and Insights from Canada** Representative from Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada
9:50am	**Fireside Chat: Advancing Communications Connectivity Throughout Australia** • Sharing key insights from the Regional Telecommunications Review • Discussing the fundamental priorities in the pipeline for improved connectivity • Highlighting collaboration opportunities cross-government, public sector, and private sector **Samuel Grunhard,** *First Assistant Secretary, Communications Services and Consumer Division,* Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts **Alannah MacTiernan,** *Chair,* Regional Telecommunications Review 2024
10:10am	**Partner Session**
10:30am	**Government Keynote: Delving into the Infrastructure Capability and Implementation** • The current status of infrastructure and providing a vision for the future – the missing link for better connectivity • Laying a roadmap of planning and deployment strategies • Taking advantage of emerging technologies for infrastructure optimisation **Lisa La Rance,** *First Assistant Secretary of the Communications Infrastructure Division,* Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
11:00am	**Morning Break**

11:30am	**Interstate Perspectives Panel: Empowering Connectivity: Innovations and Collaborations in the Public Sector** • Bridging the digital divide in connectivity between rural, regional, remote areas and metropolitan cities • Showcasing successful initiatives in play and discussing learnings – how can other regional areas follow suit? • Discussing opportunities for leveraging innovation to create more resilient, efficient, and people-centric connectivity solutions **Peter Adams,** *Group Director, Strategic Projects and Service Delivery,* Department of Regional NSW **Matthew Dummett,** *Director, Telecommunications,* Department of Government Services (VIC) **Zoe Malone,** *Senior Director Telecommunications,* Department of Corporate and Digital, Northern Territory Government **Shane Fitzsimmons,** *Board Chair,* NSW Connectivity Innovation Network; *Former Chair and Member,* NSW Telco Authority, *Commissioner*, Resilience NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service
12:00pm	**Government Case Study: Showcasing a Significant Success Story for Better Connectivity** • Shedding light on the approach taken to address connectivity barriers • Understanding the imperative of improved networks in connecting cities with the regions • Sharing the learnings and key outcomes in upgrading telecommunications connectivity **Kylie de Courteney,** *Managing Director,* NSW Telco Authority
12:20pm	**Partner Session**
12:40pm	**Government Keynote: Safeguarding Digital Ecosystems	A Glimpse into Cybersecurity in Advancing Connectivity** • Exploring the evolving threat landscape, including emerging risks and vulnerabilities that threaten connectivity infrastructure and services • Discussing encryption, access controls, network segmentation, and other cybersecurity measures to protect against unauthorised access, data breaches, and cyber attacks • Fostering an awareness of cybersecurity training within communications departments for quicker response to potential attacks **Brendan Dowling,** *Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology,* Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
1:00pm	**Partner Session**
1:20pm	**Lunch and Networking**
2:20pm	**Interactive Roundtables**
3:05pm	**Government Keynote: Making Government Work: Harnessing Opportunities Across Jurisdictions** • How collaboration across jurisdictions can work purposefully together • The ongoing challenge and opportunities for regional infrastructure collaboration • Examples of CW, S&T and stakeholder collaboration/case studies **Meghan Hibbert,** *Assistant Secretary, Regional Connectivity Branch,* Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts

3:25pm	**Panel: Emerging Technologies and Innovations for Future Connectivity**
	• Exploring key trends and drivers shaping the future of connectivity, including 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), edge computing, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain
	• Sharing use cases and applications of 5G and its impact on connectivity
	• Investigate the role of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies in enhancing connectivity security, resilience, and intelligence
	Ian Oppermann, *Director,* Connectivity Innovation Network
3:55pm	**International Keynote: Delving into the Asia Pacific Collaboration | A Perspective from ITU**
	• Discussing the landscape of connectivity in the ASEAN region – what are the learnings they are implementing from Australia?
	• Providing insights into a 'whole-of-government' approach when it comes to connectivity
	• Highlighting a Smart Village/Smart Island approach – incorporating a 'no-one gets left behind' approach
	Atsuko Okuda, *Regional Director,* ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
4:25pm	**Closing Remarks from the Chair**
4:30pm	**Networking Drinks**

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