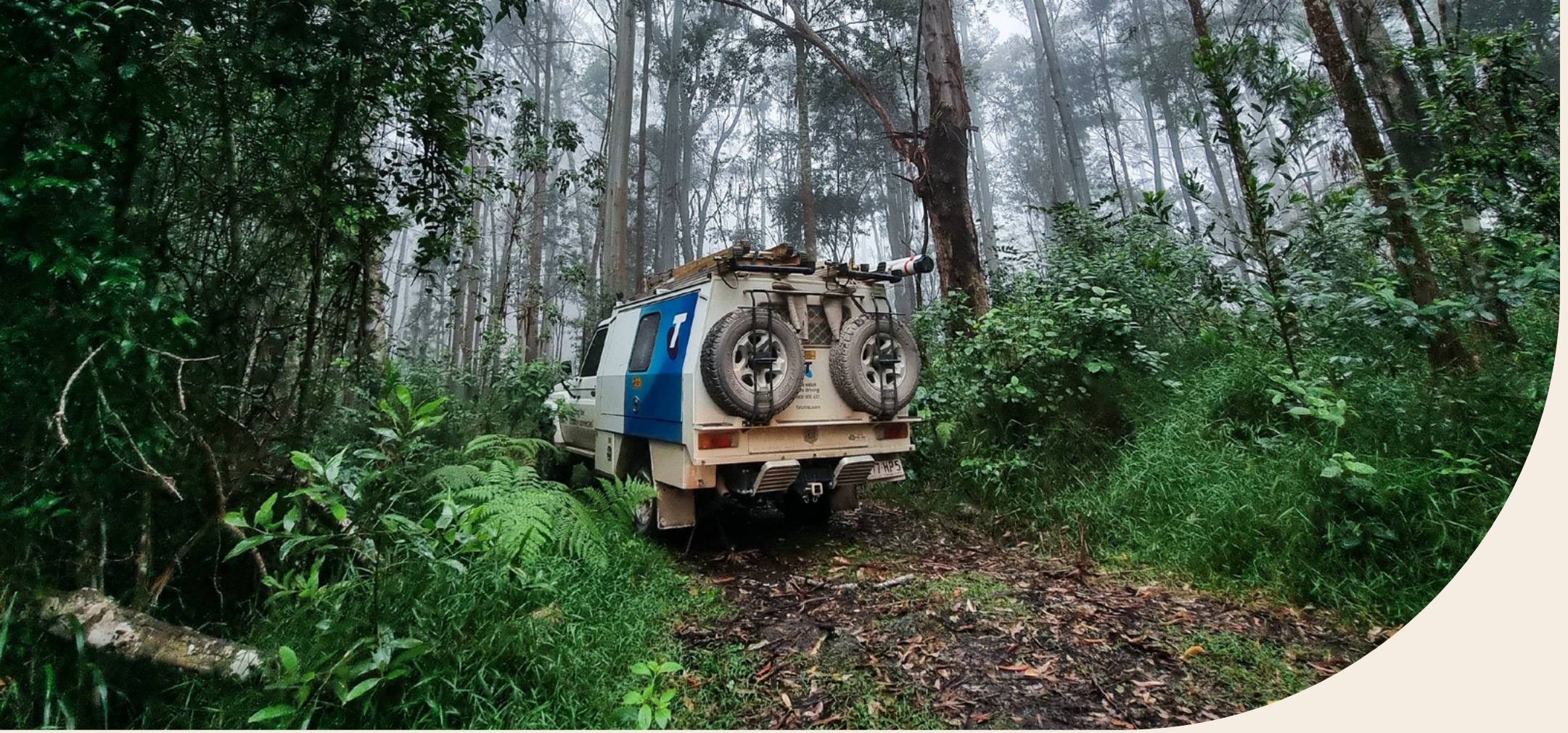
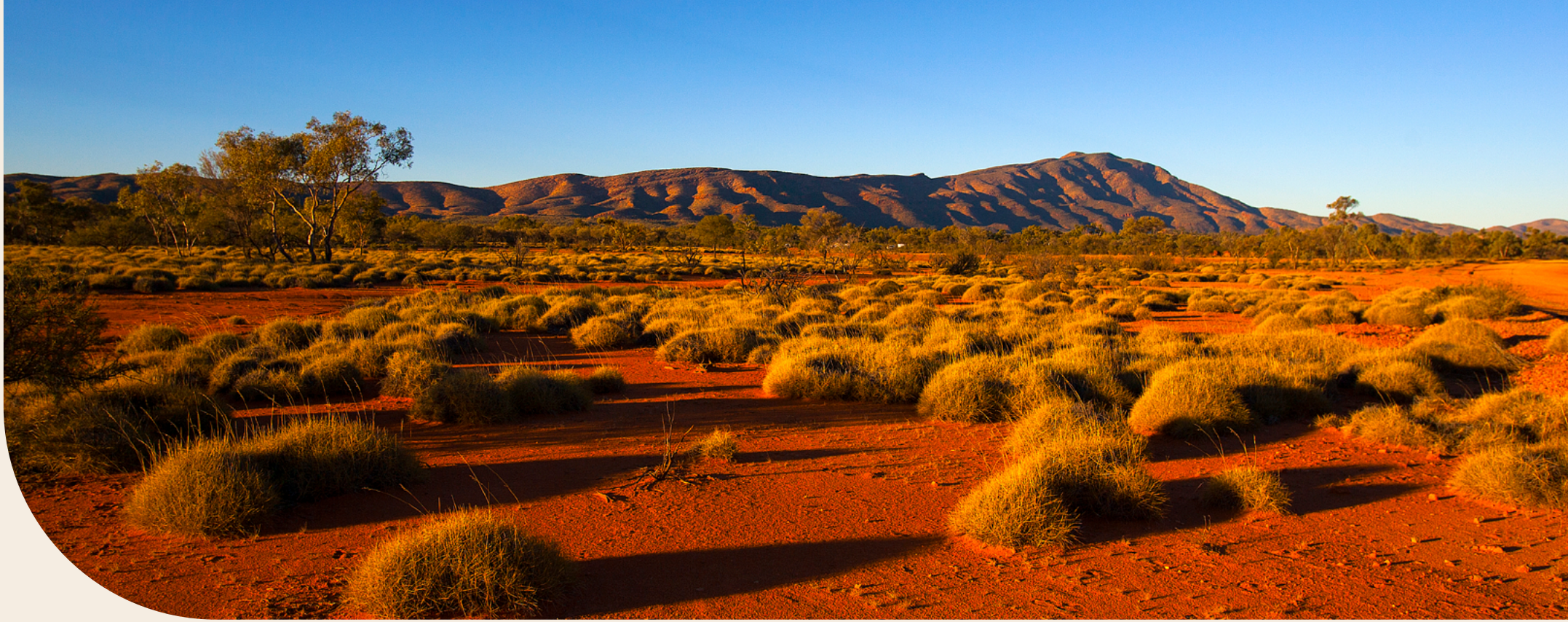


Our approach to nature action

May 2025



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and recognise the existing, original and ancient connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to the lands and waterways across the Australian continent. We pay respect to the past and present Traditional Owners and Elders of this Nation.

At Telstra, we are enriched by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contribution to our organisation, and we commit to working together to build a prosperous and inclusive Australia. We also commit to working together to protect the nation's lands and seas – including its rich biodiversity – with acknowledgement and deep respect for the wisdom in long-held, time tested First Nations Caring for Country practices.

Forward-looking disclaimer

This document includes forward-looking statements which are provided as a general guide only. They reflect expectations which involve risks, uncertainties and other factors which may be beyond Telstra's control.

Telstra disclaims all responsibility for the currency, accuracy, reliability and completeness of the forward-looking statements to the maximum extent permitted by law. Readers should not place undue reliance on these statements, and Telstra gives no representation, warranty or other assurance in connection with them.

Nature is the backbone of the global economy, with over 50% of global gross domestic product (GDP) relying on nature and its services[1]. Yet our natural environments are deteriorating rapidly. The global economy is already operating outside six of the nine planetary boundaries, which define the safe limits to maintain a stable and resilience Earth[2]. Five of the ten most severe global risks, identified in the World Economic Forum Global Risks Report (2024)[3], are related to nature.

The decline in species diversity and ecosystem health threatens not only countless plants and animals but also human well-being, including food security, water availability, security, and livelihoods. We recognise that the health of our business is intrinsically linked to, and dependent on the health of our environment and the communities we serve. The telecommunications and technology sector depends on natural resources and a stable climate for our operations.

Our natural places are invaluable. They offer beauty, spiritual connections, especially for our First Nations people, and health benefits from fresh air, clean water, and biodiverse environments. Collaboration across government, business, science, and industry is essential to accelerate action and make a difference.

At Telstra, we interact with nature daily when we maintain our network and infrastructure, or when we provide technology solutions to customers. Our infrastructure and supply chain span many Australian ecosystems, from the most ecologically diverse regions to urban centres. We are committed to minimising our impact on nature and taking action on climate change. We also believe that data, connectivity and technology solutions can help us monitor our natural environment and take action to better mitigate and minimise biodiversity impacts.

We use the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) to guide our disclosure of the work we do to evolve our understanding and management of nature-related risks, opportunities, dependencies and impacts.

This document outlines our priority areas for nature action, including where we believe we can make a unique contribution to reduce biodiversity loss through leveraging our resources and assets. We intend to build upon this document over time to include any nature-related ambition, any commitments and to integrate interdependencies such as climate change and resource use.

Our progress on protecting and conserving nature

2011
Chief Sustainability Office established
Telstra became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact

2013
Working with **First Nations People** connection to and experience with **nature-based solutions** via the Indigenous Workforce Program

2014
Nature embedded in environmental management pillars
Telstra's first **Environment Strategy** and **environment targets** published

2015
First global **Environmental Management System** ISO 14001 certification
Launched **Electronics Reuse and Recycling** Strategy

2016

2018
Our first in-depth view of the impact of a changing climate on our business
2020 Environment Targets published

2020
Announced **Climate Change goals**

2021
Published Telstra's **Climate Change Report**
Launched new **Resource Efficiency Targets** and **extended emissions reduction target** to include scope 3

2022
Achieved target for **100% of Telstra branded packaging** to be made of renewable or recycled material and be fully recyclable by 2022

2023
New **Telstra's approach to sustainability**
Nature & Biodiversity pillar in Sustainability Strategy
Increased **two circular economy targets**

2024
Early adopters of the **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** (TNFD)
First TNFD-aligned **public nature disclosure** in Annual Report
Increased our absolute **scope 1+2 emissions reduction target to 70%** (up from 50%) by 2030 from an FY19 baseline

1 World Economic Forum (2020). Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy. WEF_New_Nature_Economy_Report_2020.pdf
2 Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre (2023). Planetary Boundaries. Planetary boundaries - Stockholm Resilience Centre
3 World Economic Forum (2024). Global Risks Report 2024 | World Economic Forum | World Economic Forum

Taking action on nature – Our approach

Recognising the risks, opportunities and central role we can play to enable greater action on nature, we embedded nature and biodiversity as a component of Telstra's Sustainability Strategy in 2023. Our ambition for nature action recognises the unique assets and ability Telstra has to scale impact on nature protection – our infrastructure footprint, our technology, connectivity and computing solutions, our presence in community and our relationships with customers, suppliers, partners and the public.

It also addresses our need to first get the foundations right for our business – including by taking all reasonable measures to minimise our impact on the environment through our operations or supply chain, considering location-specific risks and opportunities across the breadth of the organisation, and working collectively with delivery partners and other stakeholders to confirm our actions in the community reflects our ambition.

We acknowledge and respect the role of First Nations leadership in caring for, respecting and restoring country. We are committed to exploring ways to partner with First Nations communities to build their wisdom and engagement into the foundation of our work on nature.

Theme	Connect Australians to nature	Enable tech-driven nature action	Partner to protect	Leverage our infrastructure
Intention	**Leverage our connection with Australians to raise awareness of the imperative to act**	**Enable nature action to scale the revitalisation of ecosystems through tech and connectivity**	**Partner to scale nature programs through tech, connectivity and analytical expertise**	**Leverage Telstra's unique infrastructure footprint and resources to support the protection and conservation of nature in areas we operate**
Priority actions	Engage with the public on nature action through transparent disclosures and reporting	Showcase the role of tech and connectivity solutions for nature action	Expand our approach to management of nature related risks, opportunities, dependencies and impacts across our value chain	Manage environmental risks and protect, restore or revitalise land, waters and biodiversity impacted by operations
	Explore opportunities to connect and empower communities to care for lands and waters	Develop tech and connectivity propositions and use cases for nature protection	Work with strategic partners and suppliers to scale our impact to protect nature	Consider opportunities to leverage our network and infrastructure for environmental monitoring
	Leverage our presence in community to engage and enable environment and heritage protection	Explore pathways to support and scale innovation in nature conservation and restoration tech	Build links with First Nations wisdom, connection and care for country into our approach	Explore opportunities to enhance nature and biodiversity values at Telstra sites

The role of digital & data solutions to accelerate action on nature

Tech for nature

Technology, digital and data solutions present an enormous opportunity to accelerate action on nature protection and conservation efforts.

Video or acoustic based AI detection can process large volumes of information to identify species in wild places. Fast computing can provide quick action-reaction indicators for the public or conservation managers to take immediate steps.

We are proud of the role we play to help business, industry, partners and customers harness technology to address some of the challenges facing us as we work to conserve the special places we have custodianship of, to minimise, halt or reverse environmental degradation, and restore nature and biodiversity where possible.

Collaborating across industry for nature protection

Making a difference for nature protection, conservation and restoration requires a different approach. Collaboration is critical to achieving the systems level change needed to protect nature and address biodiversity loss – while also prioritising the location specific biodiversity requirements for the environments and communities we are operating in.

We are committed to being part of those solutions. Our approach to nature considers how we put partnership and collaboration at the centre of our efforts.

Opportunity for technology and connectivity to enable environmental action[4]

Technologies:	Use cases:
• AI and machine learning • Networked sensors and IoT • Spatial data analysis/modelling software (GPS & GIS) • Bioacoustics & ecoacoustics • Satellite remote sensing • Camera traps • UAVs/drones • eDNA • Blockchain • Mobile applications & digital platforms	• Reporting & disclosure • Supply chain transparency • Supply chain transformation • Corporate target setting & monitoring • Project development & management • Biodiversity offsetting • Smart regenerative agriculture/smart sustainable forestry • Wildlife conservation • Illegal activity detection & prevention • Hazard identification & response • Land management • Education & awareness

Tech-driven measurement

We believe there is a critical role for technology, connectivity and computing solutions to enable robust, scientific measurement of impacts and success for nature-related activity.

IoT devices can be used to monitor resource use or environmental conditions, video, thermal and LiDAR monitoring can provide valuable primary data sets, and AI can analyse complex data sets to generate insights.

We are committed to exploring ways we can support greater action on nature through technology solutions – and providing those technology value propositions for update, challenge and refinement with industry input.

4 From GSMA – The Nature Tech Nexus: Bridging biodiversity and business | Mobile for Development

Our interface with nature

We interface with nature across all realms – land, ocean, freshwater and atmosphere. Our identified risks, opportunities, dependencies and impacts are reviewed periodically and disclosed in our annual report. There are six key environmental assets which our business depends on:

Water resources

Freshwater is used by our direct operations to provide cooling for equipment in our data centres. Water is also used by our upstream value chain in the manufacture of devices and network equipment.

Land

Our network requires access to both terrestrial land and marine environments to construct, operate and maintain our above ground assets, fibre network and subsea cable network.

Atmospheric systems

Operating a reliable network is dependent upon managing changes to local weather and global climate systems. We operate active and passive cooling systems in many of our exchanges that account for, and where possible leverage, ambient temperatures to optimise energy consumption.

Mineral, energy and other resources

Resources such as precious metals and forestry products are required in the manufacture and distribution of network equipment and other physical goods and packaging in our upstream value chain.

Renewable energy resources

We rely on renewable energy to directly power a number of our sites, particularly in remote locations where connection to the electricity grid is difficult. Supporting the deployment of large-scale renewable energy generation capacity is also one of our priorities.

Ecosystem services

We revegetate land disturbed during construction to help protect our assets as root systems maintain soil integrity, providing a natural barrier to erosion. We also depend on a stable climate to service our community."

Case Study

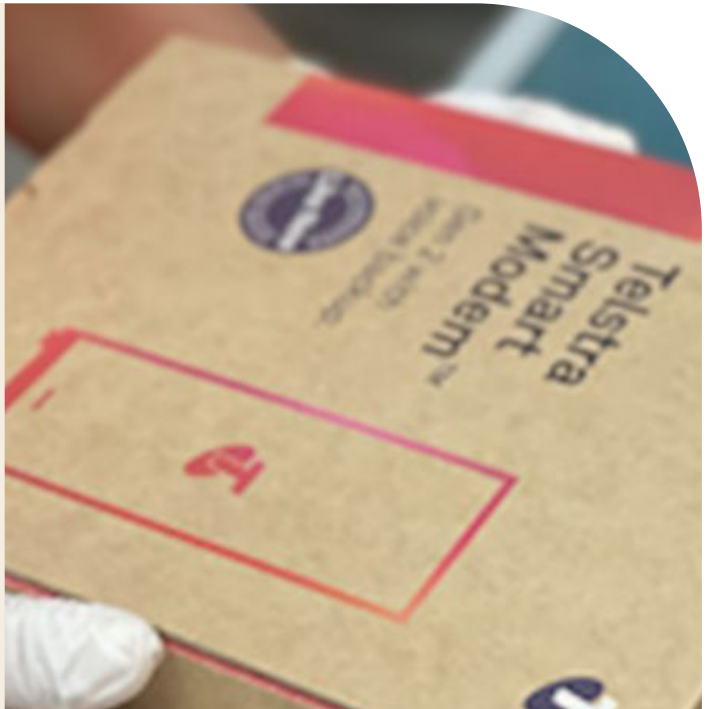
Creating new modems from old modems to reduce our dependency on raw materials

The extraction, processing and manufacturing of technology presents a risk to nature – largely linked to the extraction of raw metals and other materials required in the hardware and the water, energy and other natural inputs to the manufacturing process. Circular economy solutions present an opportunity to reduce this impact by keeping materials in use for longer and providing next-life options to reduce demand for raw materials.

We're finding innovative ways to make technology more circular. We've built EcoDesign principles into our product management framework to encourage innovation, reduce material use and promote the use of recycled materials. We also take back old or unwanted smartphones, tablets, modems and other connected devices. We refurbish, redeploy, reuse or recycle these devices to give them their next life.

We are also now making new modems from components of old modems. Phones and modems not only contain components – like plastics – that we can reuse, but also rare metals like gold and silver. By putting these materials back into new technology and equipment, we can reduce the need to mine for new resources, reducing associated impacts to nature and biodiversity. By building markets for recycled materials, we hope to encourage others to invest in more circular, lower impact solutions like these.

Read more here.



The potential impacts of our operations are heightened in sensitive environmental areas:

The scale of our assets

We have over
20,000
above ground assets

connected by
250,000km
of underground fibre cable

These assets provide
connectivity across a land area of
2.6M km²

Operating in sensitive environments

>22% of Australia's landmass is protected under the National Reserve System (NRS).
Made up of more than 14,000 individual areas, the NRS defines protected land under seven categories including **Strict Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, National Parks, Natural Monuments,** and **Protected Landscape or Seascape**

To start to understand our network's interactions with protected lands we have **identified where our network assets are within NRS areas**

1.3% of our Australian **fibre network** and
2.5% of our **above ground assets are in protected land areas** such as National Parks or Indigenous Protected Areas

We have ownership in **international subsea cable networks** which span
400,000km
interacting with deep and shallow water **ocean ecosystems**

Telstra's assets cross many of the TNFD-aligned biomes, including tropical-subtropical forests, savannas and grasslands and deep seas

Find out more on our nature related action

Read more about our progress on climate change and environmental protection in our **Bigger Picture Sustainability Report** available on our reports page

Find our nature-related disclosures in our **Annual Report** available on our reports page

Read more about how we are enabling positive climate action here

Join our Sustainability Newsletter or contact us via our sustainability mailbox to stay updated.