

Sustainability Matters



July 2021

Our focus on regional Australia

We have a longstanding commitment to provide connectivity to regional, rural and remote areas. In these areas, Telstra is more than just another telco – it's often the only telco. That is a big responsibility, and one we take seriously. That's why we have [a new funding program to improve our network](#) for regional, rural and remote customers.

Over the next four years, we will lead an additional \$200 million co-investment fund aimed at enhancing and extending network coverage in rural and regional areas. We are also investing \$150 million over the next 12 months to improve networks in regional, rural and remote Australia.

In addition, following the sale of 49 per cent of our InfraCo Towers business, we announced that [\\$75 million of the proceeds would be invested to further build and deepen connectivity](#) in regional

Australia. Telstra will be guided by the recommendations of the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC) in directing this investment.

Incredible connectivity has the potential to transform a nation, but these dreams can only be realised if everyone can join in.



Trusted operations

Telstra blocks over 13 million scam calls a month

We are now blocking around 13 million suspected scam calls on average per month from reaching customers. Over the past few months, we have implemented upgrades to our platform that have enabled us to be more aggressive in detecting and blocking more types of scam calls than ever before.

Telstra was a key contributor to the Reducing Scam Calls Code, which has given us and other telcos the regulatory foundation to block numbers that are non-telco compliant. It sets out the

expectation for telcos to collaborate more to block illegitimate calls – a big win for the industry and our customers.



[Read more](#)

How we are boosting diversity in STEM

Telstra is funding new high-tech spaces and awarding a number of scholarships to support more diverse young students from the University of Melbourne to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

With the opening of the Telstra Creator space at [Melbourne Connect](#), we checked in with our newest Telstra Technology and Innovation Scholarship recipients. Find out what they have to say [here](#).



[Read more](#)



Supporting schools and business in regional Australia

In regional NSW, [we have undertaken major upgrades to our fixed network](#) across 525 exchange locations, improving internet speeds and opening up significant opportunities for business and learning previously limited to our cities.

NSW public schools are some of the first to benefit from the upgraded network, with more than 2,200 schools getting a boost to their internet connection and some seeing their total shared bandwidth upgraded by 15 times previous capacity.

In addition, these upgrades mean regional businesses can embrace new technologies and compete with larger companies,

with capacity now to work with technologies like Augmented Reality, advanced analytics and Artificial Intelligence.



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Moonhack 2021 celebrates space and our planet

This year, Code Club Australia, powered by the Telstra Foundation, ran yet another successful Moonhack event over one week in May. [Moonhack 2021](#) celebrated the stories and ideas that can help us to improve and understand our planet by helping kids code their own planet-saving solutions. Projects included [a beautiful lesson](#) about Dhinawan, the Emu in the Sky constellation recognised by the Gomeri people.

The event had over 24,000 kids participate, 48 per cent of whom were girls, bringing the total number of kids who have joined Moonhack over the past six years to more than 150,000. To learn

more about Code Club and discover how you can help get kids coding, click [here](#).



[Read more](#)



How we are designing for a better future

As a leading provider and large-scale user of telecommunications hardware, we are committed to optimising the resources we use, reducing consumption and waste across our business, and investing in 'circular solutions' that are designed to be sustainable across their lifecycle.

To do this we have set three new resource efficiency goals:

- Reuse or recycle 500,000 mobile phones, modems and other devices each year to 2025

- Ensure 100% of Telstra-branded packaging is made of renewable or recycled material and is fully recyclable by 2022
- Increase our network waste recycling rate to 85% by 2025

Read more about how we plan to deliver on these goals and design for a better future, [here](#).



[Read more](#)

Making good on our renewable energy goals

Last year [we stepped up to do our part addressing climate change](#), a defining challenge of the 2020s. We achieved our goal of becoming carbon neutral in our operations, and now we are working hard to become leaders in renewable energy with a [new wind farm partnership near Goulburn, NSW](#). At capacity, the new wind farm will pump 58-megawatts of clean, green, decarbonised energy in to the grid every year.

When this wind farm, named Crookwell 3, starts production in mid-2023, we will be more than halfway to our goal of 100 per cent

renewable energy production by 2025. It joins our stable of renewable energy investments, and when combined with Murra Warra Wind Farm and Emerald Solar Farm, will supply more than 150,000 homes' worth of non-renewable electricity consumption each year.



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