

Small Cells

Fact sheet



Small Cells - Big Benefits

Telstra's deployment of small cells in high-use areas ensures our customers can continue to enjoy a quality mobile service with minimal deployment of new infrastructure.

Small cells are a low-powered, more discreet solution to meet ever increasing demand on our mobile network and deliver a quality service.

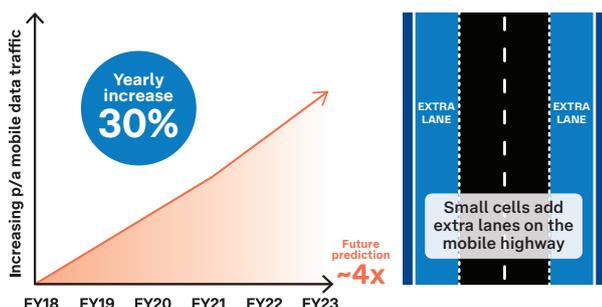
The need for small cells

Demand on Telstra's mobile network increases by around 30 per cent each year, with more people using more devices on our network, more of the time. That amounts to nearly a four-fold growth in traffic in the last 5 years alone.

This requires an ongoing increase in capacity/spectrum just to maintain performance. As an analogy imagine how many road upgrades and additional highway lanes would be needed to manage a four-fold growth in vehicular traffic!

More than 8.6 petabytes of data was carried on average each day on Telstra's mobile network in April 2023 – that's the equivalent of downloading nearly 2.9 Million movies in HD every day. The Telstra network also carries around 60 million voice calls and 40 million SMS messages every day. Small cells are a way to address that demand, reduce congestion and improve performance without having to build larger towers.

Mobile network traffic



Small cells - better coverage and extra lanes

You should notice a big difference in your area after the installation of a Telstra small cell and should experience better connectivity and more reliable mobile coverage.

We have used small cells for over 30 years and importantly small cells will provide the required capacity into the future.

Small cell safety

Small cells use low power and comply with Australia's mandatory EME safety standards which themselves have a significant safety margin built in.

We have done extensive EME testing including inside residential homes, and found the EME levels well below the safety limit and similar to Wi-Fi. [More information here.](#)

Resources

Use your device camera to scan this QR code which will take you to Telstra's website to find more information, or you can go here: tel.st/tell-me-about

Further information is also available on the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) website: acma.gov.au/small-cells

