



Australian Government

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

Australia's presentation to APEC TEL 66

Policy and Regulatory update to Plenary

Presented by Clare Spring



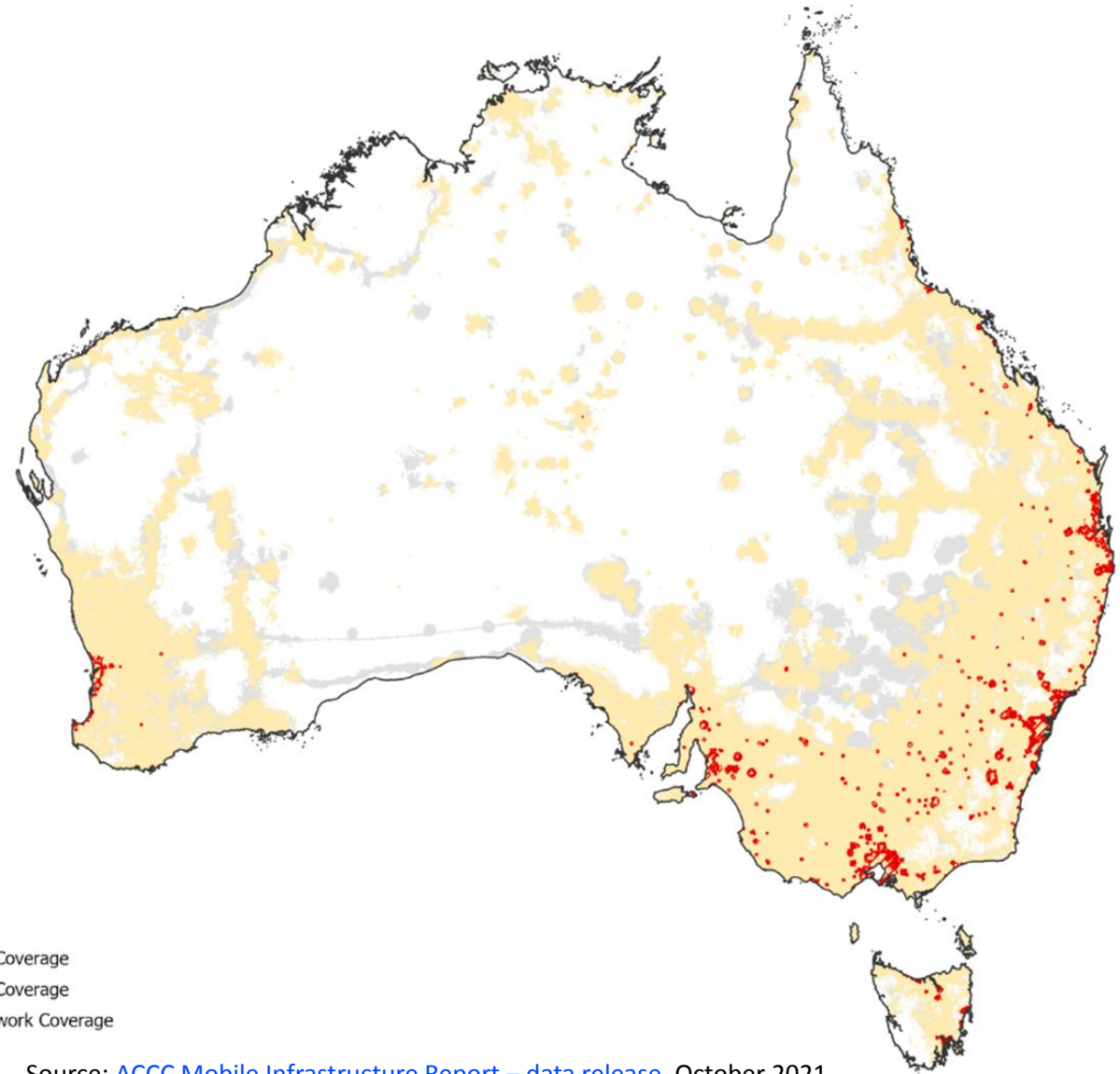
Communication market trends

Regional mobile coverage

- Australia's population is concentrated in urban areas along the southeast coast
- Competition between three major mobile carriers provides quality mobile services – covering up to 99.5% of Australians
- Coverage of less populous and less travelled areas is more challenging, due to higher costs and fewer customers
- Australian Government supports mobile network deployment in less commercial areas by co-investment schemes with the major carriers and state and territory governments

Legend

-  All 5G Mobile Coverage
-  All 4G Mobile Coverage
-  All Mobile Network Coverage



Source: [ACCC Mobile Infrastructure Report – data release](#), October 2021

Communication market trends

Consumer check-in

- The Australian Government provides for funds to the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN). Funding for ACCAN is recovered from charges on telecommunications carriers.
- ACCAN's recent consumer check-in (2022) surveyed Australian adults 18+
- Findings centered on:
 - affordability (for example, 60% of respondents agree public Wi-Fi is important to them)
 - digital platforms (for example, only 44% of respondents 50+ agree that it is easy to change their privacy and safety settings on websites and apps)
 - reliability and fairness (for example, 74% of respondents rate their internet services as high quality and reliable; and 79% for their mobile phone services)
 - TV and streaming (for example, 81% of respondents report that free-to-air TV is still important to them)

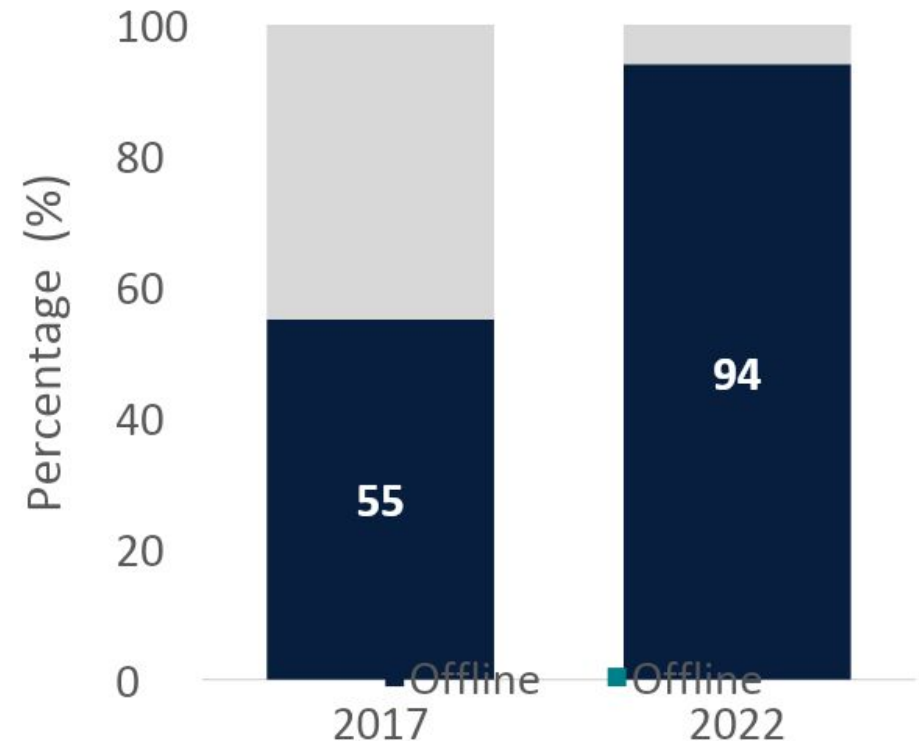


Communication market trends

Most Australians are online

- Nearly all adult Australians (99%) use the internet
- Around 93% have a home internet connection – with the majority (88%) connected to the NBN
- Some adults (7%) do not have a home internet connection – rising to 9% in regional areas
- Older Australians aged 75+ years are increasingly online - use the internet (94%) in 2022 than 5 years earlier (55%)
- Around 88% of Australians aged 75+ have a home connection

Australians aged 75+ years who use the internet

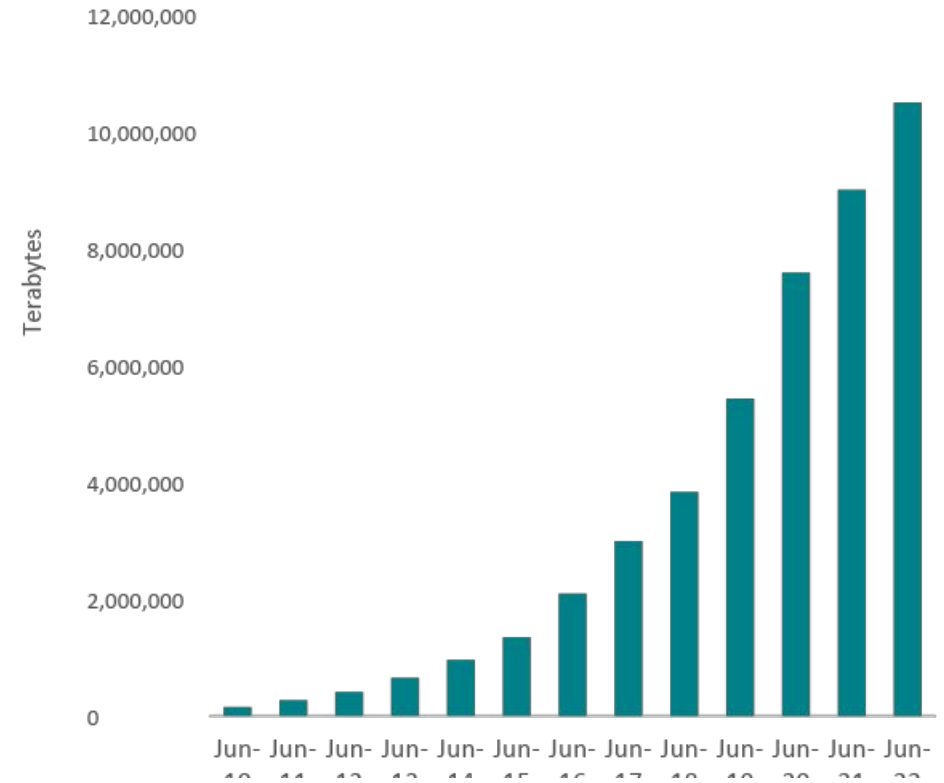


Communication market trends

Our data usage is growing quickly

- Consumers downloaded around 11.6 million TB of data in the three months to 30 June 2022
- This is an increase of 18% on the period in 2021
- The vast majority of this data (10.4 million TB) was downloaded on fixed line internet connections
- Around 1.3 million TB was downloaded via mobile services

Retail Broadband Download Volumes(June Quarter)



NOTE: excludes mobile phone data to facilitate a longer time series.

Supporting new technologies

Low Earth Orbit Satellite Working Group

- LEO satellites have potential to fill connectivity gaps in remote areas
- A **Low Earth Orbit Satellite Working Group** which will examine the future role of LEO satellite technology in delivering telecommunications services in Australia, as well as more broadly in the Pacific
- The Australian Government is working with industry and First Nations people to identify opportunities and barriers to realising the benefits of LEO technologies



Looking ahead

Regional connectivity and resilience

- The Australian Government has committed AUD\$656m to its *Better Connectivity Plan*, including funding to address mobile coverage blackspots and further rounds of place-based digital connectivity infrastructure investment
- Funding is also available for communications resilience initiatives, building on earlier government programs that deployed satellite services to keep fire service depots and local communities connected during natural disasters
- Following referral in September 2022 by the Australian Minister for Communications, a parliamentary committee is conducting an inquiry into the experience, opportunities and challenges for co-investment in multi-carrier regional mobile infrastructure



Thank you

Any questions?