

Question on notice from 5G Inquiry hearing – Dec 6th 2019:

Mr HUSIC: The big issue has been around trying to get component manufacture, and you've got Ericsson and Nokia mainly doing this. Does the industry see the potential for local industry collaboration to meet the needs of the rollout, and, if so, how does it see that occurring? And, if not, what does it think is required? That's a massive series of questions, but it has been the big issue, and I thought of that when you mentioned, Chris, the US FAST strategy, because I suspect that's what's driven the emergence of that.

AMTA response – Feb 12 2020:

AMTA has consulted with our MNO members and vendor members who supply network equipment to Australian network operators, Nokia and Ericsson.

While our infrastructure vendor members advise us that they do not have production capability based in Australia, there is significant opportunity for local industry partners to collaborate in the roll-out of 5G. There is already a large workforce engaged in the current and ongoing deployment of mobile networks in Australia and this will not change in a 5G context.

Significant local industry engagement and collaboration occurs with network equipment vendors in the construction of sites, assembly, integration and tuning of manufactured equipment for new 4G and 5G networks. This trend is set to continue, expand and diversify over time as 5G develops and enables related sectors such as the Internet of Things which is expanding strongly across many industry sectors involving a mix of imported and locally sourced products.

AMTA believes that the primary elements critical to ensuring successful roll-out of 5G networks in Australia which will in turn unlock the potential increase in productivity promised by 5G technologies remain:

- Timely allocation of sufficient spectrum resources;
- Reform of mobile network deployment regulation and;
- A focus on an appropriately skilled workforce

AMTA is continuing to work closely with the ACMA and Department of Communications in relation to proposed reforms to the spectrum management regulatory framework and deployment regulatory reform.

AMTA members are also working in partnership with local universities to develop training courses as well as delivering their own training with a focus on future mobile technologies, applications and services including network deployment.

We believe these objectives will require ongoing collaboration between Government, regulators, universities and industry.