



Australian Government

Defence

**Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport**

**Shutdown of the 3G mobile network and
telecommunications services accessibility**

**Department of Defence
Submission**

May 2024

Defence Response

The Department of Defence is aware of the Telstra 3G network shutdown, expected at the end of June 2024. There will be an impact on Defence from the 3G network shut down however this will not affect operational capability. In preparation for the shutdown, Defence is working to transition devices and services connected to the 3G network to alternate technologies. The process of transferring services to new technologies will mitigate the majority of impacts to Defence. The devices and services dependent upon 3G technologies vary greatly, from mobile telephone services to Internet of Things devices.

Defence has undertaken an active internal messaging campaign as part of the reduction strategy to reduce impacts to Defence users, and improve the transition process to newer technologies. This has seen a consistent reduction in the number of services across all use types within Defence

Defence's Estate Maintenance Operations Services contractors have been progressively replacing known 3G equipment as part of business as usual since Telstra announced the shutdown. Estate Maintenance Operations Services contractors are at different stages of completion for the replacement of known 3G devices still required; however, all have advised any life safety services relying on mobile coverage will be upgraded before the shutdown on 30 June 2024.

Defence maintains a range of communications capabilities to support its business, the conduct of operations including in rural areas, and during disaster situations. Consequently, Defence does not have additional specific contributions on the impact of the 3G Shutdown for regional areas, or the impacts on Australians in these areas.