



20 August 2018

Committee Secretary
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into the Telecommunications Amendment Bill 2018 - Invitation to make a submission

ESTA is Victorian Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority, a Victorian Public Sector authority created by the Emergency Services Telecommunications Act 2004.

ESTA is unique in Australia as it provides Victoria's statewide emergency call-taking and dispatch services for police, fire, ambulance and Victoria State Emergency Services. It also manages on behalf of the state, the provision of advanced, operational communications networks for Victoria's emergency services, including digital and radio networks that make use of telecommunications towers.

ESTA believes the proposed amendments to the *National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011* and the *Telecommunications Act 1997* will be positive for ESTA, the emergency services sector and the Victorian community.

They will enable access to NBN sites without the necessity of being a 'carrier', which will help if ESTA wants to co-locate any of the services it manages.

Schedule 1 to the Bill amends the line of business restrictions, which are suspended only when NBN Co provides access to towers and associated sites, and only when it supplies this access to eligible persons. For the purposes of the Bill, eligible persons are defined as including police, fire, and ambulance services and state or territory emergency services.

ESTA seeks clarification as to whether it is covered by this definition as typically it accesses sites on behalf of the all these services for the state. A new agency agreement (currently being drafted) will give ESTA the authority to do this.

Kind regards,

Marty Smyth
CEO