



Australasia Digital Communications and Media Forum 2026

Date: 10th - 12th February 2026

Location: Sydney, Australia

Agenda: Tuesday 10 February 2026 - Regional Regulators Roundtable (Invitation Only)

13:30 - 14:00: Registration & Networking

14:00 - 14:15: Welcome

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

Adam Suckling, Deputy Chair, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

14:15 - 15:30: Regulatory collaboration in practice: moving to a more joined-up approach in a global digital economy

Speakers:

Kate Reader, General Manager, Digital Platforms Branch, Digital Platforms Branch, Australian
Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)

Kate Davies, Group Director for Strategy and Research, Ofcom UK

Tristan Gilbertson, Telecommunications Commissioner, Commerce Commission of New Zealand

15:30 - 16:00: Networking Break

16:00 - 17:15: International insights – safeguarding public safety through emergency call regulation

- Australia as a case study

Adam Suckling, Deputy Chair, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

David Eyre, Board Chairman, Telecommunication Authority of Fiji (TAF)

Steven Matainaho, Secretary, Papua New Guinea Department of Information and Communications
Technology (DICT)

17:15 - 17:30: Close of Roundtable

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

Agenda: Wednesday 11 February 2026

07:30 - 09:00: Breakfast Roundtable – by invitation

Bridging the connectivity gap: collaborating to unlock LEO satellite capacity

- Advancing digital infrastructure through innovation: what policy frameworks can support the deployment of next-generation satellite technologies while ensuring sustainable growth for all market participants?
- Modernising international standards for the digital age: how can regulators engage constructively in global technical forums to ensure that international frameworks keep pace with technological advancement and serve national connectivity objectives?
- Expanding connectivity in underserved markets: what are the most effective approaches for leveraging diverse satellite technologies to bridge connectivity gaps in remote and rural communities across the region?
- Regional leadership in global telecommunications policy: how can countries strengthen their voice in international telecommunications discussions to shape outcomes that benefit the region's unique connectivity challenges?

Moderator:

Marcus Ng, Head of APAC and Economics Strategy, Access Partnership

Speakers:

Chris Hofer, Head, International Spectrum Management and Strategy, Amazon Leo

Tristan Gilbertson, Telecommunications Commissioner, Commerce Commission of New Zealand

Stan Ahio, Director, Department of Communications, Ministry of MEIDECC, Government of Tonga

08:30 - 09:00: Registration & Networking

09:00 - 09:15: Welcome to Country

Performed by Binowee Bayles

09:15- 09:30: Welcome

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

09:30 - 10:30: Sustainability of news and public interest journalism

- Findings from the Australian News Bargaining Incentive consultation
- Sustainable business models in the context of changing consumer behaviours, advertising trends, the threats of mis- and disinformation and the impacts of AI
- Debating the efficacy of current and potential policy and regulatory interventions

Moderator:

Ian Robertson AO, Partner and Chair, Holding Redlich

Speakers:

Stacey Wood, Chief Executive, Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA), New Zealand

Julie Eisenberg, Author: Finding a way forward for Australian News: An examination of local and international regulatory interventions

Clare O'Neil, Director of Corporate Affairs, SBS

Dr Tobias Schmid, Director, Media Authority of North Rhine-Westphalia; Commissioner for European Affairs of the German Media Authorities

10:30 - 10:40: Investment & skilling in the Asia-Pacific creative economy

Andrew Ure, Vice President Global Affairs APAC, Netflix

10:40 - 11:10: Media capacity building and outreach

- Digital transformation – how to design and implement targeted initiatives to benefit local audiences and harness diverse voices / talents
- Importance of digital literacy as a foundation for inclusion and resilience

Moderator:

Andrew Ure, Vice President Global Affairs APAC, Netflix

Speakers:

Steven Matainaho, Secretary, Papua New Guinea Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Papua New Guinea

Andrew Molivurae, Senior Internet Governance Officer, Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulation (TRBR), Vanuatu

11:10 - 11:30: Networking Break

11:30 - 12:45: Comprehensive digital platform regulation – agile rulemaking for the digital economy

What institutional structures are most effective in addressing the global nature of large platforms and fostering the development of digital services?

What regulatory settings best ensure delivery of the benefits of digital services and innovation to consumers?

- Update from the ACCC
- Regional comparisons

What are the learnings from recent examples of the designation of digital services under competition regimes?

What parameters should be considered when designating a platform as having significant market power?

Moderator:

Chris Whelan, Principal, RBB Economics

Fireside Chat:

Luke Woodward, Commissioner, Australian Competition & Consumer Commission

Speakers:

Lena Vanmali, Associate General Counsel, Competition and Regulatory, Meta

Justin Mining, Competition Policy Lead, Asia Pacific, Google

Dave Poddar, Partner, Quay Law Partners

12:45 - 13:00: Regulatory spotlight: Creative disruption - responding to illegal online gambling services

- How we use our regulatory toolkit to disrupt services
- Challenges right now – from scambling to influencers

Carolyn Lidgerwood, Full-time Member, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

13:00 - 14:00: Networking Lunch

14:00 - 15:15: Online protection of children and adolescents

- Implementation update: Australia's new U16 online access ban
- Comparison with international approaches to online safety
- Regulatory and enforcement challenges
- Comparing standards and enforcement practices for age verification and content moderation
- Effectiveness of tools for parental control and shared responsibility
- Concrete examples of good practices internationally

Moderator:

Michael Swinson, Partner, King & Wood Mallesons

Speakers:

Brent Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Netsafe, New Zealand

Kate Davies, Group Director for Strategy and Research, Ofcom UK

Edward Wee, Director, Online Safety & Content Regulation, Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)

Ben Au, Manager, ANZ Public Policy, Snap

Kelly Tallon, Executive Manager, Industry Compliance & Enforcement, Australian Office of the eSafety Commissioner

15:15 - 15:45: Networking Break

15:30 - 17:30: Parallel Session: Closed-door Asian Development Bank (ADB) roundtable discussion with Pacific government stakeholders: Co-designing Pacific digital futures

Introducing the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Digital Sector Office and its evolving role in supporting digital transformation across the region. The roundtable format will enable Pacific government stakeholders to share their perspectives on emerging priority areas such as digital connectivity, data governance, and digital skills development which will help shape ADB's ongoing analytical work and future program design. This session also will provide an opportunity to exchange views, validate needs, and ensure that forthcoming initiatives are aligned with national contexts and regional aspirations.

15:45 - 16:45: Privacy in an AI world

- The feasibility of maintaining meaningful privacy in an AI-driven environment
- Update on latest tranche of privacy reforms in Australia – objectives, timelines, advice for those drafting their laws, comparisons regionally and internationally
- How can regulation balance innovation with strong protections for individuals?

Moderator:

Michael Coonan, Director of Public Policy, Free TV Australia; President of the Australian Chapter of the International Institute of Communications

Speakers:

Dr Stephen King, Commissioner, Productivity Commission

Sunita Bose, Managing Director, DIGI – Digital Industry Group Inc.

Sarah Kruger, Director of Policy & Regulatory Affairs, IAB Australia; Co-Vice President of the Australian Chapter of the International Institute of Communications

Peter Lewis, Executive Director, Per Capita

16:45 - 17:45: Copyright & AI

- Assessing whether copyright is the right tool to govern training of generative AI models
- Considering other tools such as competition law and transparency requirements

Moderator:

Tim Webb, Partner, Clayton Utz

Speakers:

Annabelle Herd, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA)

Dr Stephen King, Commissioner, Productivity Commission

Carolyn Hough, Founder and CEO, Policy Australia

17:45: Close of Day One

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

17:45 - 19:00: Networking Reception

More information will be available soon

Agenda: Thursday 12 February 2026

07:30 - 09:00: Breakfast Roundtable – by invitation

Stimulating screen – exploring policy levers to achieve a sustainable and culturally vibrant screen sector

Moderator:

Andrew Ure, Vice President Global Affairs APAC, Netflix

Speakers:

Leon Forde, CEO, Olsberg.SPI

Deirde Brennan, CEO, Screen Australia

Kate Marks, CEO, Ausfilm

08:30 - 09:00: Registration & Networking

09:00 - 09:15: Welcome

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

09:15 - 09:45: Keynote: The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull AC

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull AC, 29th Prime Minister of Australia

09:45 - 11:00: Investing in universal coverage – policy, regulatory and technology choices for underserved, rural and remote areas

- Long-term funding models to ensure resilient, equitable infrastructure
- How effective are mechanisms such as rural funds and subsidies, coverage obligations, wholesale access schemes? What are the alternatives?
- Should regulation prioritise affordability ex ante or the sustainability of investment ex post?
- Which emerging technologies— such as LEO satellite, device-to-device communication, FWA, community networks—are most viable for connecting the unconnected?
- What role does efficient and coordinated spectrum management play?
- What regulatory frameworks can support innovative pilot schemes?

Moderator:

Alexander Kühn, Senior Advisor to the President on Spectrum, Federal Network Agency for Electricity,

Gas, Telecommunication, Post and Railway (BNetzA) Germany

Speakers:

Jane van Beelen, Chief Legal & Regulatory Officer, nbn@ Australia

Luke Coleman, CEO, Australian Telecommunications Alliance (ATA)

Ross Mitchell, Head of Government Relations, TPG Telecom

Tristan Gilbertson, Telecommunications Commissioner, Commerce Commission of New Zealand

Shun Lee, Assistant Director (Operations), Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), Hong Kong
China

11:00 - 11:30: Networking Break

11:30 - 12:30: Infrastructure in an AI-centric world: implications for investment, regulation, data sovereignty, power & cooling supply and connectivity

- What are the expectations for capacity growth due to AI?
- What is the business response to the capacity challenges of AI?
- Data centres as comms infrastructure – policy and regulatory considerations
- What are the current regulatory challenges? How are companies dealing with those challenges?

Permitting challenges? Data sovereignty requirements?

- Are there ways in which governments can ease those permitting challenges?

Moderator:

Angela Flannery, Partner, Quay Law Partners; Board Director, International Institute of Communications

Speakers:

Ben Saint, Head of Government Affairs, Oceania, Nokia

Christopher Price, Director, Advanced Technology Group, Ericsson

Madeleine Houghton, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Tech Council of Australia

Belinda Dennet, CEO, Data Centres Australia

12:30 - 13:15: Spotlight on infrastructure investment and regulatory priorities in the Pacific Islands, including resilience and disaster communications

Moderator:

Warren Finch, IXP Development Expert, Internet Society

Speakers:

John Jack, Director, Department of Communication & Digital Transformation, Vanuatu

Su'a Aulaga Faumuina, Assistant CEO Spectrum Management & Technical Services, Office of the Regulator, Samoa

Stan Ahio, Director, Department of Communications, Ministry of MEIDECC, Government of Tonga

13:15 - 14:15: Networking Lunch

14:15 - 15:15: Cybersecurity and national critical infrastructure resilience and protection

- Updates on Horizon 2 of Australia's cyber security strategy and the Security of Critical Infrastructure (SOCl) Act review – priorities, vulnerabilities, implementation
- How are universal connectivity, hyperconnectivity, the expansion of mobile comms and AI increasing the surface area to be protected and therefore the sophistication of cyberthreats?
- Data centres as critical national infrastructure
- Establishing trust – roles for vendors, enterprises and governments
- Examples of collaboration across supply chains and across borders to counter the cyberthreat landscape

Moderator:

Rosemary Sinclair AM, Former Chief Executive Officer, .au Domain Administration (auDA); Advisory Council, International Institute of Communications

Speakers:

Alastair MacGibbon, Chief Strategy Officer, CyberCX

Tim Fawcett, Director of Government Affairs, Cisco Systems

Jamie Morse, Head of Industry & Policy, Macquarie Technology Group

Rachael Falk, Partner, Ashurst Risk Advisory

Warren Finch, IXP Development Expert, Internet Society

15:15 - 15:45: Networking Break

15:45 - 17:15: Cracking down on phone scams, fraud and unsolicited communications: best practice international regulatory and industry collaboration

Moderator:

James Konidaris, Special Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs; Co-Vice President of the Australian Chapter of the International Institute of Communications

Speakers:

Samantha Yorke, Member, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

Jean-Jacques Sahel, Asia-Pacific Head of Content Policy and Global Head of Telecommunications Policy, Google

Bel Clough, Senior Regulatory Specialist, Corporate Affairs, Risk and Legal, Telstra

Colin Engelbrecht, Team Leader, Senior Investigator, Digital Messaging and Violent Extremism Team, Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand

Suanne Russell, Lead Ombudsman, Small Business, Australian Financial Complaints Authority

17:15: Closing Remarks

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications