



# Australasia Digital Communications and Media Forum 2026

**Date:** 10th - 12th February 2026

**Location:** Sydney, Australia

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## **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

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# 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 Molivuræ**, 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

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# **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 (SOCI) 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

**Suane Russell**, Lead Ombudsman, Small Business, Australian Financial Complaints Authority

## **17:15: Closing Remarks**

**Lynn Robinson**, Director General, International Institute of Communications