
Submission

1 June 2023

Director, Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Program
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594,
Canberra ACT 2601

Re: Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation program—draft grant opportunity guidelines

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (**ACCAN**) thanks the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (**the Department**) for the opportunity to comment on the Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation program—draft grant opportunity guidelines for Rounds 1 and 2 (**the guidelines**).¹

ACCAN is the peak body that represents consumers on communications issues including telecommunications, broadband, and emerging new services. ACCAN provides a strong unified voice to industry and government as we work towards communications services that are trusted, inclusive and available for all.

ACCAN supports programs that mitigate the impact of natural disasters by strengthening the resilience of telecommunications facilities throughout Australia. In ACCAN's view, the guidelines provide adequate guidance to facilitate grant opportunities that improve the preparedness of Australia's telecommunications networks against rising climate risks.

The guidelines could be further improved by stipulating the provision of further support to broker meaningful and ongoing partnerships with First Nations communities. To better encourage participation by First Nations communities in the grants scheme, ACCAN recommends that section 7.1 of the guidelines be amended to provide dedicated support for First Nations communities throughout the application process.

We thank the Department for the opportunity to comment on the guidelines. To discuss this submission further, please do not hesitate to contact me at samuel.kininmonth@accan.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Kininmonth
Policy Adviser

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) is Australia's peak communication consumer organisation. The operation of ACCAN is made possible by funding provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under section 593 of the Telecommunications Act 1997. This funding is recovered from charges on telecommunications carriers.

¹ Available at: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/telecommunications-disaster-resilience-innovation-program-draft-grant-opportunity-guidelines>