

Telstra's Position on Environment Advocacy

August 2024

Introduction

Telstra has a long and proud history of working with government and regulators.

With Australia's largest network and our sovereign capability, we partner with all levels of government to enable all Australians to participate in the digital economy.

Telstra supports democratic systems of government and believes it is critical for us to understand and discuss regulatory and political developments which impact us, our operations, our customers and the communities we serve.

We believe that policy outcomes are more successful when government considers business and other perspectives during policy development, and as such, we play an active role in policy engagement.

We engage with government and regulators directly through ongoing relationships, responding to submissions related to policy development and industry consultation, and by responding to regulatory initiatives, business developments and market practices.

We utilise and contribute to the advocacy work conducted by industry associations for our indirect engagement with government. This document summarises our key views on climate policy and outlines our principles for engaging with industry associations on environment policy development.

Our views on climate change

We believe that the telecommunications sector has a significant role to play in enabling greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, the transition to a low carbon economy and minimising our impact on the planet.

We acknowledge the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that human activity is contributing to climate change and that global warming should be restricted to well below 2°C and preferably 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, aligned with the Paris Agreement. For ourselves, we are committed to achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050, aligned with the Paris Agreement. To achieve this, we have set emissions reduction targets that have been validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as aligned to a trajectory to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Telstra is committed to transitioning to a low carbon business and managing the impact of climate risk on the services we provide to our customers. We are committed to leading by example, using our corporate behaviours and values and scale and voice to accelerate the transition to a more environmentally sustainable world.

Engagement through industry associations

Telstra maintains memberships with a number of industry associations that we believe provide value to our business, industry, the economy and society more broadly. These associations bring access to the latest industry thinking and insights around issues including AI, cyber security and scams, digitisation policies and programs and workplace policies.

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In general, we seek to be part of industry associations which:

- Create value for Telstra and our industry
- Create opportunities to better understand issues affecting our industry and contribute to the development of effective and efficient policy, regulation and industry standards
- Connect us with other organisations who can help us address the needs of our customers, communities and the planet
- Create professional development and training opportunities
- Facilitate the sharing of industry best practice and insights
- Assist us to better understand the diverse views held on important issues affecting industry.

Our engagement in industry associations ranges from our CEO and Group Executives taking leadership positions, specialist staff participating in working groups, providing member feedback on papers and positions, sharing our strategy and learnings, and participating in member training and workshops.

Many industry associations engage on a broad range of issues and as a result our views on individual issues may differ from other industry association members from time to time. We may or may not agree with each position put by the industry association, or we may not provide a view.

From an environment perspective we participate in both general and specialist industry associations. We monitor our industry association memberships to identify whether any significant differences exist between our environment policy and the industry association's position. If a significant difference occurs that is material to our business, we will consider a range of steps including discussing the misalignment with the industry association, making a public statement distinguishing our views from those of the industry association, or ceasing to be a member of the industry association, if the impact of the misalignment is greater than the other value provided through the membership.

Industry association memberships where we engage on environment positions

Industry Association	Telstra participation
Australian Industry Group	Member; Energy and climate working group
Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)	Member; Director position; MobileMuster working group
Australian Packaging Covenant (APCO)	Member
Business Council of Australia (BCA)	Member; Climate working group
Carbon Market Institute (CMI)	Member; Policy working group
Climate Leaders Coalition (CLC)	Member; Climate working group; Nature working group
Communications Alliance	Member; Director position
Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA)	Member; Scope 3 working group, Biodiversity working group
Joint Audit Cooperation (JAC)	Member
Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence	Member
United Nations Global Compact Network Australia (UN GCNA)	Member