



# High speed broadband across Australia

June 2020

The Government has established new statutory infrastructure provider (SIP) obligations on NBN Co Limited (NBN Co) and other wholesale network providers to ensure that all people in Australia, no matter where they live, have access to high speed broadband network infrastructure.

The SIP obligations will commence on 1 July 2020.

## Providing certainty

All people in Australia currently have guaranteed access to a telephone voice service through the Universal Service Obligation. The SIP rules will provide industry and consumers with certainty that all premises in Australia will have access to high speed broadband network infrastructure.

## Key SIP obligations

NBN Co must connect all premises in its network footprint following a reasonable request from a retail service provider. It must also supply wholesale services that allow that retail service provider to deliver a high speed broadband service to consumers. SIPs will be expected to connect premises to a high speed fixed-line network. However, where this is not reasonable, the SIP will be able to connect premises to a high speed fixed wireless or satellite broadband network. The wholesale services SIPs supply must meet reference standards. Retail providers should be able to supply retail services with peak download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) and peak upload speeds of at least 5 Mbps. On fixed-line and fixed wireless networks, SIPs' broadband services must also support voice services. SIPs will be able to supply faster or slower speeds in line with consumer demand.

## Supporting competition

Other carriers can also be SIPs where appropriate. For example, where a carrier is the sole provider of telecommunications infrastructure in a new development, it could be the SIP and would have to connect all premises in the development and supply wholesale services. The Minister will be able to designate a carrier as the SIP. For example, the Minister could designate an established network provider in an area as the SIP. In these circumstances, the provider must connect all premises and supply wholesale services to retail providers.

## More detailed requirements

The Minister will also be able to make standards, rules and benchmarks for SIPs. Standards could set out timeframes for providing access to a network, or for rectifying faults. Benchmarks could be set in relation to those standards

## Monitoring and enforcement

The Australian Communications and Media Authority will be the regulator for the SIP rules. It will have powers to require SIPs to report on their performance and maintain a register of SIPs.