

**Minister for Science and Technology
Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence**

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3 6165 7686
Email: minister.ogilvie@dpac.tas.gov.au



Hon. Jacqui Petrusma MP
Member for Franklin
C/o- laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Constituency Question – Telecommunications

Dear Ms Petrusma

Thank you for your Constituency Question on 10 September about the resilience of telecommunication networks following severe weather events.

Tasmania has experienced its share of natural disasters in recent times. While government has mechanisms in place to stand up resources and respond quickly, it is incumbent on everyone to work together to ensure disaster resilience.

Importantly, with respect to telecommunication networks, the government is working with the Australian Government and industry to enhance Tasmania's networks.

Due the scale of potential resilience upgrades, and the continuing evolution of technologies, the government is committed to engaging in this work on an ongoing basis.

Enhancing networks can be achieved by various means including, but not limited to:

- Upgrading cellular tower battery back-up power
- Upgrading transmission resiliency between clusters of connected towers
- Installing generators and hardening of infrastructure
- Improving communications between power providers and telecommunication carriers.

The Australian Government are currently working towards implementing emergency mobile roaming – effectively enhancing network coverage and capacity.

We also continue to work with the Australian Government on a range of national programs including the Mobile Network Hardening Program, Mobile Black Spot Program, Regional Connectivity Program, and the Peri-urban Mobile Program. The Tasmanian Government has invested \$3 million into these programs to deliver infrastructure upgrades across the state.

This is in addition to the government's recently completed investment of \$3.5 million towards enhancing mobile coverage on Tasmania's Great Eastern Drive.

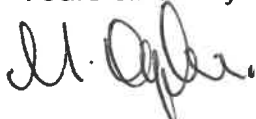
Looking forward, the government has committed \$200,000 towards building a new Telstra mobile tower at St Helens. This tower will increase mobile capacity within the community to ensure services can better cope with increased demand during times of emergency events.

I would like to give you assurance that we are working with Telstra to upgrade the west coast network hubs of Queenstown and Mr Read to enhance 4G services and provide new 5G services.

The Tasmanian Government continues to remain abreast of the challenges of the state's telecommunication network – and we will continue our strong engagement with the Australian Government and service providers to seek the best outcome for Tasmanians.

Again, thank you for your timely question and I hope this information is of reassurance to your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Ogilvie', written in a cursive style.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Science and Technology