Digital Infrastructure
INSTITUTE

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET · CONNECTIVITY

Glossary

Plain-English translations of the terms used around connectivity projects

Data and networks

Bandwidth — how much data can flow per second; the size of the pipe. **Latency** — the delay for data to make a round trip, in milliseconds. **Fibre-optic cable** — glass strands carrying data as light; the backbone of all modern networks. **NBN** — the National Broadband Network, Australia's wholesale fixed network. **Landing station** — the small secure building where a subsea cable comes ashore. **Point of presence (PoP)** — a site where networks interconnect.

Electricity

Interconnector — a high-capacity electricity link between regions or states. **HVDC** — high-voltage direct current, the technology used for long undersea and underground power links (Marinus Link is HVDC). **Transmission** — the high-voltage network moving power over long distances. **AEMO** — the Australian Energy Market Operator, which plans and operates the power system. **AER** — the Australian Energy Regulator, which approves what network companies can charge.

Land and approvals

Easement — a registered right for infrastructure to occupy a strip of land, binding future owners. **Compulsory acquisition** — government power to acquire land or an easement with statutory compensation, as a last resort. **EIS / EES** — Environmental Impact Statement (or Effects Statement), the state-level assessment document, publicly exhibited. **EPBC Act** — the Commonwealth environmental approval law. **Protection zone** — a declared marine corridor where activities that could damage a cable are restricted (declared by the **ACMA**, the communications regulator).

Project language decoded

'Low-impact facility' — a category of telecom equipment carriers may install with notice rather than planning approval; the definition is specific, so check a claimed one qualifies. **'Strategic benefit payment'** — an annual payment to landholders hosting infrastructure; check duration and indexation. **'Final investment decision (FID)'** — the point where a project commits its money; before FID, everything is still provisional. **'Additionality'** — whether claimed benefits (energy, jobs) are genuinely new, or would have happened anyway.

Want to know more? See also the glossary in our data-centre community series (sheet 26), which covers computing and energy terms. This sheet is general information, not legal or planning advice; a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.