

# Industry Engagement - Questions and Answers

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Industry Engagement - General	
<b>How is the PSMB Taskforce engaging with industry?</b>	<p>An initial <a href="#">Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Industry Briefing</a> was held in December 2023.</p> <p>During Q1 2024, the Taskforce will invite industry to provide information on their current and potential service and technical offerings. This will be followed by a formal approach to market via a request for information (RFI) in Q2 2024. Additional industry briefings are expected to be held as part of this market approach.</p>
<b>Market Approach</b>	
<b>When do you expect to approach the market?</b>	<p>A Request for Information (RFI) is expected to be released in Q2 2024.</p> <p>A Request for Tender (RFT) is planned for the second half of 2025. This is subject to the outcome of the RFI and government consideration at both the Federal level and state and territory levels of the options and costings for delivering a national PSMB capability.</p>
<b>How long will industry have to respond to the RFI and RFT?</b>	<p>We are currently proposing a 10-12 week timeframe for participants to respond to the RFI.</p> <p>The timeframe for responses to the proposed RFT is yet to be determined.</p>
<b>Who will be eligible to participate in the RFI?</b>	<p>To ensure market competitiveness, the RFI will be open to participation to all eligible suppliers capable of delivering a national PSMB capability as part of a proposed two-stage procurement process.</p>
<b>Will organisations be eligible to take part in the RFT if they do not participate in the RFI?</b>	<p>As the RFI may form the beginning of a two-stage procurement process, we strongly urge those interested in participating in the RFT to respond to the RFI to be assured RFT eligibility. Further details on eligibility will be provided in the RFI when published on AusTender.</p>
<b>How do you plan to involve smaller, local suppliers and equipment providers outside the MNOs and larger vendors?</b>	<p>We are considering all options and will be looking to industry to provide solutions which maximise coverage, availability, transparency, security and value for money, including options that incorporate smaller providers and/or equipment vendors.</p>

<p><b>What type of information will be sought through the RFI process?</b></p>	<p>The RFI will seek information from the market on its ability to establish a national PSMB capability that can deliver the functional and non-functional communications service requirements of Public Safety Agencies (PSAs) and their first responders in all jurisdictions (at the Commonwealth, state and territory levels) across Australia. This will include information on the optimal architecture(s) for delivery of a national PSMB capability in a timely manner and associated costing and pricing information of any proposed solution.</p> <p>The RFI will also seek information on proposed roll out options that can deliver products and services at a mission-critical standard as early as possible, and strategies to migrate and/or integrate other existing and new service products, platforms and technologies with a new national PSMB network.</p>
<p><b>Funding and Opt-in by Jurisdictions</b></p>	
<p><b>How much funding will be available for the national PSMB capability?</b></p>	<p>Further information is needed to fully consider requirements, delivery model options and costs for a national PSMB network.</p> <p>Following the RFI process, responses will be assessed and a preferred delivery model(s) will be identified. This will enable cost modelling to be undertaken. Industry input on solutions and costs from the RFI will help inform this modelling. This will inform business cases and co-funding arrangements to be developed and considered at both the Federal level and state and territory levels. This work is planned to occur during the 2024-25 financial year.</p>
<p><b>Will all jurisdictions agree to make a commitment to co-fund and opt-in to use the national PSMB capability?</b></p>	<p>The Commonwealth and state and territory governments are working together to progress the national PSMB capability. Decisions on funding and opting-in are a matter for Government and are under active joint consideration of all Parties.</p>
<p><b>National Capability considerations</b></p>	
<p><b>What is the expected timeframe for delivering the PSMB?</b></p>	<p>The first tranche of the PSMB capability is expected to commence in Q1 2026 and be delivered in Q1 2027. This timeframe will, however, be informed by the approach to market, consideration of capability costings by the Australian Government as well as state and territory governments, and contract negotiations.</p>
<p><b>What is the proposed architecture for the PSMB?</b></p>	<p>The proposed architecture for the PSMB is still under consideration and will be contingent on and informed by solutions provided through the RFI process.</p> <p>The PSMB Taskforce is working extensively with all jurisdictions to develop an agreed set of national requirements. The intent is that these national requirements will be included in the RFI and be consistent with the National Objectives agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2018 and the two additional National Objectives proposed by Recommendation 3 of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review.</p> <p>The inclusion of the agreed set of national requirements in the RFI, and responses provided to the RFI will enable us to assess the preferred delivery model/s, architectures and associated costs that meet PSA and jurisdictional requirements and provides value for money.</p>

	We will consider all options and will be looking to industry to provide solutions which meet jurisdictional PSA requirements, and maximise coverage, availability, security and provides value for money.
<b>How many PSMB users do you foresee requiring access to the network?</b>	This information is currently being collected from each jurisdiction and will be provided as part of the RFI.
<b>Will the PSMB use dedicated spectrum?</b>	The 2022 PSMB Strategic Review provided a clear pathway to deliver a PSMB capability without the use of dedicated spectrum. It found that accessing spectrum through commercial arrangements with mobile network operators should become the focus of an initial PSMB implementation.
<b>Will the existing infrastructure of the MNOs be used for developing the PSMB?</b>	Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review, the initial focus is on utilising existing MNO infrastructure, while also considering how the coverage and resilience of those networks can be leveraged and aligned with other relevant Commonwealth, state and territory programs. That said, all viable options will be considered. We will be looking to industry to provide solutions which meet jurisdictional PSA requirements, and maximise coverage, availability, security and provides value for money.
<b>Most international examples have built their own core. Is this something you are also looking at doing?</b>	We are considering all options and will be looking to industry to provide solutions which maximise coverage, availability, transparency, security and value for money.
<b>Are you looking at a small scale pilot project or full nationwide launch?</b>	We will know more after we have had a chance to formally assess solution designs from the market. We are open to considering all viable delivery models, particularly proposals that allow for an early launch of a national PSMB capability.
<b>Are you planning to migrate users from state and territory government radio networks, such as P25 LMR, to PSMB? If so, over what timeframe?</b>	In the short and medium term, this is unlikely. These decisions are also most likely to be made by individual jurisdictions. However, solutions which support interworking of Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks with a PSMB core will be considered favourably. The importance of the existing LMR networks as a viable operational redundancy will remain a key consideration for a number of years.
<b>Other Considerations</b>	
<b>Will the PSMB consider investments in other government programs such as the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) and Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP)?</b>	Consistent with Government's response to Recommendation 9 of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review, the PSMB Taskforce will consult with DITRDCA to consider how to best leverage and align with other relevant Australian Government programs where possible.

<p><b>Will there be any Legislative or Regulatory measures imposed in relation to the national PSMB capability?</b></p>	<p>It is standard practice for the Australian Government to undertake a Regulatory Impact Statement and consult with affected parties on any legislative or regulatory measures that may be required, which could have an impact on relevant markets.</p> <p>The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will work with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on any such measures, which may also require consultation with the Australian Competition &amp; Consumer Commission (ACCC).</p>
<p><b>How will the PSMB impact on other initiatives such as Cell Broadcast (National Messaging System (NMS)) and Temporary Disaster Roaming (TDR)?</b></p>	<p>The PSMB and National Messaging System will be complementary public safety communications initiatives that will both rely on mobile network availability, resilience and coverage.</p> <p>In October 2023 the ACCC found that temporary mobile roaming during emergencies, also known as TDR, was technically feasible, but further work was needed to design and develop the capability. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency are currently undertaking further work to scope a TDR capability.</p> <p>Any potential impact of TDR on a PSMB capability will depend on the policy design of both.</p>
<p><b>Additional Information</b></p>	
<p><b>Where can I find out more about the PSMB Program?</b></p>	<p>Further information can be found on NEMA's website at <a href="#">Public Safety Mobile Broadband   National Emergency Management Agency</a> and in the <a href="#">Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Fact Sheet</a>.</p>