

3G NETWORK DECOMMISSIONING & THE IMPACTS ON COUNCILS

Infrastructure
Networks
Vehicle tracking
Telephony
Mobiles
Devices

**TRANSITIONING
FROM 3G TO
ADVANCED 5G
NETWORKS**



3G NETWORK DECOMMISSIONING IN 2024

How to reduce the impacts and plan for a smooth transition to 5G

Amid the current emphasis on the expansion and advancement of 5G networks, it's vital to recognise that certain rural and remote areas in Queensland have only recently gained access to the 3G network and understand the subsequent impacts when telcos decommission 3G in 2024.

While the focus shifts to newer technologies, it's important to acknowledge the impending impact on various older devices and infrastructure that rely on 3G connectivity. Medical devices, older phones, smartwatches, vehicle SOS services, security systems, and an array of connected products will be adversely affected by the discontinuation of 3G. This will render these devices incapable of making or receiving calls, texts, or using data services, including emergency calls to 000.

Many councils still have 3G telephony services and infrastructure including meters, utilities, dams and maritime facilities. Some councils may not be aware of the ramifications of the shut down of the 3G network. To prevent service disruption, councils reliant on this technology will need to upgrade their devices before the complete shutdown of 3G in 2024.

IMPORTANT INFO

When is the 3G network shutting down?

Australia's 3G networks will shut down in stages,

beginning in December 2023:

- Vodafone - **December 15 2023.**
- Telstra - **June 30, 2024.**
- Optus - **September 2024.**

What to do if your council still uses 3G networks

Councils that still have 3G telephony services and infrastructure access services, including utilities and dams to maritime, will need to be aware that they cannot be simply switched to 5G.

To reduce service disruptions and plan for transfer, councils should collaborate with telecommunications providers, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders such as Local Buy, to ensure a smooth and well-managed transition away from 3G networks. Proactive planning is key to minimise disruptions and ensure the continued well-being and connectivity of your community.

Local Government elections are taking place early in 2024 and councils will move into caretaker mode in January. This means that no significant procurement activities (over \$200,000) can take place until after the election.

How do I find out if my device is affected?

Some of the devices affected include:

- Older mobile phones that only have 3G or 2G capabilities, such as some models of iPhone, Nokia, Samsung, Huawei, and others.
- Medical-alert devices, such as personal alarms, fall detectors, and blood pressure monitors, that use 3G to communicate with emergency services or caregivers.
- EFTPOS machines, farming equipment, and other devices that use 3G to transmit data or signals.
- 3G Industrial routers
- 3G Scanners
- 3G Security monitoring
- 3G Telematics
- 3G Asset Tracking
- 3G Environment monitoring
- 3G EFTPOS terminals

3G only devices:

Alcatel 2038 Alcatel OneTouch 2045, Apple iPhone 5, Apple iPhone 5C, Apple iPhone, 5SAspera, A42Doro, 6521Doro, PhoneEasy623, OPTUSGoogle Pixel 2 X, LHuawei E5251s-2, Huawei E5331, Huawei Y6 Prime, Nokia 301, Oppo A57, Oppo F1s, Oppo F5 Youth, Optus X Smart, Samsung Galaxy J1 Mini, Samsung Galaxy S5ZTE, Blade A0605, Apple Watch Series 3, Apple Watch Series 4, Apple Watch Series 5, Galaxy Watch, Samsung Galaxy Watch Active2



HOW LOCAL BUY CAN HELP

Local Buy has a dedicated Arrangement to assist councils with the procurement of telecommunications, telecom products and services as well as major infrastructure.

The **NPN1.18 Telecommunications Panel** has many options across numerous suppliers that will be able to assist with your transition from 3G. Some of the pre-qualified suppliers that can assist offer councils the same or better pricing that could be obtained from a State Government alternative panel.

Products and Services offered by pre-qualified suppliers on the NPN Telecommunications Panel include:

- Core services
- Fixed voice services
- Mobile services
- Satellite services
- Data services
- Enterprise Telephony
- Mobile device Management
- Equipment supply and services
- Ancillary services
- Managed WAN (SD-WAN)
- Broadcast Wi-Fi
- Radio Point to Point
- Enterprise Messaging
- Call/Contact Centre/ Conferencing Services

Local Buy is a profit for purpose organisation owned 100% by the LGAQ with all profits going back to support the work of Local Government.

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