



Australian Government

Fact sheet

Deliberate damage of telecommunications infrastructure is a crime.



Telecommunications infrastructure and the services it supports are essential to everyday life in Australia. Disruptions to these services due to deliberate damage of telecommunications infrastructure has a serious impact on the community. Not only do individuals, homes, businesses and governments rely on this connectivity every day, but so do emergency services and other essential services in your local area.

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Recent reports

In recent times there have been reports of deliberate damage to telecommunications infrastructure in Australia, which resulted in serious implications for those communities. The impacted communities had no access to mobile connectivity, sometimes for days, meaning some people were unable to receive information, use the internet or make calls, including to triple zero (000), and businesses and essential services were also impacted.

In these instances, carriers often need to quickly set-up temporary equipment in these areas until repairs can be made to damaged infrastructure, to ensure communities are not completely disconnected. This is not only costly to the carriers, but also disruptive and costly to businesses and services in the community.

Penalties

The penalties for property damage and associated offences vary in each jurisdiction, and also depend on the nature of the alleged conduct. These offences can carry hefty penalties, and may include possible imprisonment.

Electromagnetic Energy (EME) from Telecommunications

While the motives are not often known, there are reports some acts have been motivated by concerns about perceived health effects of electromagnetic energy (EME) emissions from telecommunications infrastructure and technologies, including 5G.

The Australian Government strictly regulates EME emissions to protect the health and safety of all members of the public, while allowing communities to access essential modern telecommunications services, including 5G. All Australians deserve and expect access to these services to keep safe, connected, and informed—wherever they are, and whenever they need it most.

With these regulations in place, you can be assured that EME from telecommunications is researched, regulated and safe.

More information on EME from telecommunications is available:

www.eme.gov.au

If you witness an act of vandalism or suspicious activity targeting telecommunications infrastructure in your area, you can report it to:

Crime Stoppers

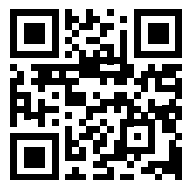
- Phone: 1800 333 000
- Website: crimestoppers.com.au

Police assistance line

- Phone: 131 444

This allows you to report crime over the phone and the information you provide is immediately available to your local police. In Victoria please contact your local police station—do not contact the Police Assistance Line.

For life threatening emergencies, please call **000**.



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