



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Mobile Network Hardening Program Perth Hills Round

Key Design Features

December 2025



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Make your views known

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications Sport and the Arts (the department) invites comments from interested parties on the Mobile Network Hardening Program Perth Hills Round (the program), with submissions closing on Friday, 30 January 2026.

You can make an online submission at infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say.

You can send submissions via mail to:

Director, Mobile Investments – Roads & Resilience
Communications Services & Consumer Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

If you have any questions, please email MNHP@communications.gov.au.

Publication of submissions and confidentiality

All submissions will be made publicly available by the department unless a respondent specifically requests that a submission, or part of a submission, be kept confidential. Comments will not be published.

The department reserves the right not to publish any submission, or part of a submission, which in its view contains potentially offensive or defamatory material, or for confidentiality reasons.

The department is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and comments and submissions may be required to be disclosed by the department in response to requests made under that Act.

Design Features

Category	Proposed Design
Grant Funding	<p>\$1.2 million in grant funding is available for up to 23 Mobile Tower sites, with funding available for up to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 50% of the total capital costs of each Battery Upgrade project;2. 50% for each Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) Upgrade project;3. 50% for each combined Battery Upgraded and Automatic Transfer Switch Upgrade project.
Eligible Applicants	<p>Eligible applicants must have an ABN and be either a:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mobile Network Operator (MNO), or2. Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider (MNIP).
Eligible Activities	<p>Activities that comprise an eligible Resilience Upgrade are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS)<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Installation of an ATS and upgrade to battery back-up power to at least 20 hours where neither is at an eligible site; or2. Upgrade to only battery back-up power to at least 20 hours where an ATS is already at an eligible site; or• Battery Upgrades<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Installation of only an ATS where at least 20 hours of battery back-up is already at an eligible site.

Category	Proposed Design
	<p>For the purposes of the MNHP Perth Hills Round, an ATS is a device that automatically switches electrical power from a primary source to a backup source, ensuring a continuous power supply without manual intervention.</p> <p>For the purposes of the MNHP Perth Hills Round, a battery upgrade can involve an upgrade to an existing battery system at a site and/or the use or installation of a supplementary battery back-up system attached to a site. Proposed battery upgrades must result in a minimum of 20 hours of battery backup.</p>
Eligible Site	<p>An existing mobile tower site must be located in the regional and peri-urban areas of Perth Hills region and Local Government Areas (LGAs) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale; ▪ City of Armadale; ▪ City of Swan; ▪ City of Kalamunda; and ▪ Shire of Mundaring. <p>For consistency and ease of understanding, eligible Regional and Peri-Urban areas for this Round are determined using the same definition as Round 3 of this Program. A map of eligible areas is available on the Department's website.</p>
Eligible Expenditure	<p>Only expenditure incurred on eligible grant activities related to the approved Resilience Upgrade project will be funded.</p>
Assessment Criteria	<p>Proposed projects will be assessed according to three merit criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost of Proposed Resilience Upgrade Project [per hour of battery life] 2. Benefits to the Community 3. Capacity, Capability and Resources of the Applicant. <p>Proposals will be grouped into three tranches based on the three types of Eligible Activities, with Tranche 1 prioritised to ensure that funding is directed to sites with the most need for resilience upgrades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tranche 1: Installation of an ATS and upgrades to battery back-up power to at least 20 hours where neither exist at an eligible site; ▪ Tranche 2: Upgrades to only battery back-up power to at least 20 hours where an ATS is already present at an eligible site; or ▪ Tranche 3: Installation of only an ATS where at least 20 hours of battery back-up is already present at an eligible site. <p>Proposed projects will also be assessed for value with relevant money.</p>