



**Australian Government**  
**The Treasury**

## Meeting Brief

MB25-001361

### FOR INFORMATION - Meeting Brief - Joint Ministers' Meeting Google - 25 November 2025

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**TO:** Treasurer - The Hon Jim Chalmers MP

#### PURPOSE OF MEETING

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- You are meeting with Bikash Koley, Vice President of Global Infrastructure and Capacity at Google. Mr Koley will be accompanied by other representatives from Google, including Mel Silva, Vice President and Managing Director, Google Australia and New Zealand (see [Attachment A](#)).
- The Minister for Finance, the Minister for Industry and Innovation, and the Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy will attend, as well as the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
- s 47C, s 47E(d), s 47G(1)(a), s 47G(1)(b) [Redacted]
- s 45, s 47C, s 47E(d), s 47G(1)(a), s 47G(1)(b) [Redacted]

#### KEY MESSAGES

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- The Government is promoting investment to expand Australia's digital infrastructure, including for fibre networks and data centres. In addition to the Government's investment in the National Broadband Network, the commercial sector (e.g. Telstra and Vocus Group) is making welcome increases in network capacity and coverage.
- Australia is an attractive destination for investment in data centres, supported by our availability of land, potential for renewable energy, regulatory and political stability, and proximity to markets in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - Australia has already attracted more investment into data centres in 2024 than any other market outside of the United States, without public financial support. However, Australia currently lacks the computing capacity in terms of hardware and energy infrastructure, to train frontier AI models.

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- Minister Ayres and Assistant Minister Charlton are expected to shortly release the National AI Plan alongside private sector announcements of investment in digital infrastructure. Details are to be settled amongst offices, with release being likely in the week commencing 1 December 2025.
  - Talking points and background information can be found at [Attachments B and C](#).

## **SENSITIVITIES**

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s 47C, s 47E(d), s 47G(1)(a), s 47G(1)(b)



- In July 2025, the Minister for Communications announced that Google's YouTube would be an age-restricted social media platform in Australia from 10 December 2025, when new Social Media Minimum Age (SMMA) obligations apply. However, YouTube Kids will not be age-restricted.

s 42, s 47C, s 47E(d)



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International Tax Branch

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**CONSULTATION**

Labour Markets, Environment, Industry and Infrastructure Division; Climate, Energy and Trade Insights Division; Digital Policy and Corporations' Division; Competition and Consumer Policy Division; Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- A: Attendees
- B: Talking Points
- C: Background

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## ATTACHMENT A: ATTENDEES

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### **Mr. Bikash Koley – Vice President of Google Infrastructure and Capacity, Google**

Mr. Koley was appointed to this position in May 2025. He oversees Google’s global infrastructure portfolio, inclusive of network, data centre, land and energy. His team is also responsible for end-to-end capacity, demand planning and optimisation across this portfolio. Other recent roles at Google include Vice President of Global Networking, Datacentre and Energy and Vice President and Head of Global Networking.



Prior to this, Mr. Koley was the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Juniper Networks. He also spent close to ten years at Google, where he was a Distinguished Engineer and the Head of Network Architecture, Engineering and Planning.

Mr. Koley holds a Bachelor of Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, India, as well as Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park.

### **Ms. Mel Silva – Vice President and Managing Director, Google Australia and New Zealand**

Ms. Silva was appointed to this position in 2018. She is responsible for ensuring the organisation delivers on Google’s mission for users and the community, supporting teams in both countries, and overseeing the work it does across sales, partnerships and platforms to help businesses grow.



Since joining Google in 2007, she has held a number of senior roles in Australia and APAC region. Prior to coming home to Sydney in 2018, Ms. Silva spent two years in Singapore, where she was responsible for Google’s Go to Market Strategy and Operations team across the Asia-Pacific.

Before joining Google, Ms. Silva was the General Manager at Fairfax Digital’s Direct Access. She also has an extensive product and marketing background in the Financial Services sector with organisations including Citibank, ING Direct and AMP.

### **Other Google attendees:**

**Ms. Behnaz Kibria**, Director, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Cloud Product Policy

s 47F

**Ms. Stef Lovett**, Director, Government Affairs & Public Policy, AUNZ

s 47F

<p><b>Social Media Minimum Age Requirements (SMMA)</b></p>	<p>YouTube will be affected by the introduction of the SMMA requirements.</p> <p>The purpose of the SMMA restrictions is about creating a culture change so that young Australians have three more years to build real world connections and online resilience.</p> <p>The eSafety Commissioner has undertaken extensive consultation to determine which social media platforms pose the largest risk to young Australians, in which YouTube been identified as the most prevalent platform where young Australians experienced harm.</p> <p>Encourage Google to continue to engage with the eSafety Commissioner and Minister Wells in the implementation of the reforms.</p>
<p><b>Text and data mining exception to Copyright Act</b></p>	<p>Note the Government is not considering a Text and Data Mining Exception to the Copyright Act.</p> <p>Encourage Google's continued participation in the Attorney-General's Department's Copyright and Artificial Intelligence Reference Group consultation process.</p>

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## ATTACHMENT C: BACKGROUND

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### Digital Infrastructure

- Digital infrastructure investment plays an important role in supporting connectivity, rollout of critical AI technology and ensuring that Australia remains competitive in the global digital economy. This investment will create new opportunities in the digital economy to ensure that Australia can take advantage of new industries and new markets and boost Australia's future productivity.
- The Government has made several investments in digital infrastructure that will enhance AI rollout, including:
  - investing up to \$3 billion to complete full-fibre NBN access to an additional 622,000 premises.
  - providing more than \$1.1 billion under the Better Connectivity Plan to improve mobile and broadband connectivity and resilience in rural communities.
- Complementing the Government's infrastructure investment program, Telstra is investing \$1.6 billion to build a high-speed dark fibre intercity network under its Aura Network program to meet connectivity demand.
  - Telstra switched on the Sydney to Melbourne leg of its long-haul fast fibre system on 21 October 2025. The Sydney to Melbourne leg will connect over 80 data centres between Sydney and Melbourne.
  - Similar investments are being made in fibre networks by other commercial entities, including Vocus Group (which is majority owned by Macquarie and Aware Super).

### Australia Connect and Pacific Connect Subsea Cables Initiative

- In 2024, Google announced their partnership with Vocus to deliver their Australia Connect initiative, which will build 42,500 km of fibre optic cable in the Indo-Pacific region. This investment will deliver a new subsea cable system connecting Australia with the Pacific.
  - Google's investment complements the Government's commitment to secure, resilient and reliable connectivity across the Pacific.
- Pacific Connect, announced in October 2023, connects Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawaii to Australia, Japan and mainland United States. Australia Connect, announced in November 2024, connects Darwin, Melbourne and Perth to Christmas Island.
  - On 18 November 2025, Google Cloud announced plans to build on the Australia Connect initiative by connecting Christmas Island to the Maldives and Oman.
  - The Government has invested over AUD350 million to support undersea cable connectivity in the Pacific and Timor-Leste since 2018. Google has played a central role in recent investments.

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## Data Centres

- Data centres are critical enabling infrastructure for the digital economy and services such as cloud computing, AI, payments, government services and telecommunications.
- In 2024-25, data centres accounted for 2 per cent of grid-supplied electricity across Australia's National Electricity Market (NEM).
  - Under the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) *2025 Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report*, the *Accelerated Transition* scenario projects data centre energy consumption to be around 13 TWh by 2029-30 – equivalent to roughly 7 per cent of NEM grid-supplied energy.
- Data centres use large amounts of water for cooling. Sites using evaporative cooling can consume tens of millions of litres of water each year. The projected doubling of data centre capacity by 2030 will add to growing pressures on water supplies.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

s 45, s 47E(d), s 47G(1)(a), s 47G(1)(b), s 47C

## AI Policy

- Google's submission to the Productivity Commission's '5 Pillar Inquiry' notes that there is uncertainty about the direction of Australian AI regulation, including the Government's Mandatory Guardrails process and the lack of a text and data mining (TDM) exception under Australian copyright law. Google emphasised both the 'chilling effect' of regulatory uncertainty and the productivity cost of overly interventionist or poorly designed regulation.
  - Google previously submitted that AI regulation is best addressed through sectoral approaches that leverage existing regulatory expertise in specific domains and called for discrete, purpose-based fair dealing exceptions to Australian copyright law for use cases including TDM.
- The Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science, Senator the Hon Tim Ayres will release the National AI Plan (AI Plan) before the end of 2025. The AI Plan sets Australia's vision for AI and articulates the Government's regulatory approach.

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- The Attorney-General's Department is consulting with the Copyright and Artificial Intelligence Reference Group (CAIRG) on potential reforms related to how Australia's copyright system applies to AI. Google Australia is a member of the CAIRG.
    - On 26 October 2025, the Attorney-General, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP announced that Australia is not considering a Text and Data Mining (TDM) Exception to the Copyright Act.

### **Clean Energy Solutions**

- Google has set a target of 24/7 Carbon Free Energy by 2030, meaning each Google data centre would be powered by clean energy at every hour of the day.
  - Google has signed more than 170 agreements to purchase over 22 GW of clean energy generation globally since 2010. The company recently reported a reduction of carbon emissions from its data centres by 12 per cent in 2024.
- The projected proliferation of data centres in Australia will likely drive demand for reliable and affordable energy generated by renewable sources.
  - The Climate Change Authority has noted that the significant power demands from data centres may limit Australia's ability to meet emission reduction goals.
- The Government is investing to ensure growing energy demands (including those generated by the rapid expansion of data centres) are met with clean, cheap energy. This includes investing in energy infrastructure to achieve the 82 per cent renewables electricity generation target by 2030.
  - According to the Australian Energy Market Operator, renewable energy sources supplied a record 43 per cent of power in Australia's NEM in the first quarter of 2025.
  - Clean energy investment in Australia soared in 2024 with a record high of \$12.4 billion.
- The Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) is a key Government underwriting scheme to assist in reaching the Government's renewable goal through boosting investment in renewable energy generation and dispatchable storage. In July 2025, the CIS capacity was uplifted to 40 GW from 32 GW to accelerate investment.
- The National Electricity Market Wholesale Market Settings Review aims to propose market settings to promote investment in firmed renewable generation and storage, delivering a system that provides reliable and competitively priced energy services, designed for the evolving energy environment.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

### **Social Media Minimum Age Restrictions**

- The Government's laws to protect young Australians from access social media platforms will come into effect on 10 December 2025.
- As of 5 November 2025, it is the eSafety Commissioner's view that Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, Kick, Reddit and Google's YouTube are age-restricted platforms.
  - YouTube Kids is not included as an age-restricted platform.
- Age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating or keeping an account.
- The eSafety Commissioner has been consulting on the best way to implement the social media age restrictions for under-16s, including meeting with Google and other digital platforms.
  - Under-16s will be able to view content on YouTube but will not be permitted to have an account or post comments.

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- Google representatives told a recent parliamentary hearing that the Government’s laws are well-intentioned but could have “unintended consequences” and will be extremely difficult to enforce. Other jurisdictions are considering similar restrictions, with Denmark recently announcing it would restrict social media to children under 15.

s 45, s 47C, s 47E(d), s 47G(1)(a), s 47G(1)(b)



s 47C, s 47E(d)

