



Media Release

Commpete Applauds Active Neutral Host Design Under 5A Mobile Black Spot Funding Program

Sydney, 23 July 2021 – Commpete, Australia’s leading alliance for competition in the digital communications industry, applauds the Government’s decision to trial the active neutral host model¹ as part of its Mobile Black Spot funding program. Commpete firmly believes this model is the right design to deliver more options for increased digital choices and competition, and it allows for a more efficient use of infrastructure funded by taxpayer money.

Michelle Lim, Chair of Commpete said:

“The mobile black spot program has expanded and improved mobile coverage in areas, where the commercial incentive to invest in network infrastructure may be weak. Access to state-of-the-art mobile technology is critical and Commpete fully supports the Federal Governments’ continued priority to level the playing field of digital access between metropolitan Australia and our rural, regional and remote communities.

“We are specifically excited that a challenger brand plays a pivotal role in trialing this alternative network design and delivery method. This will encourage other new entrants and challenger providers and help to deliver more diversity and innovation in the telecommunications industry benefitting consumers and businesses across the country.

“Mobile technology is such a critical part of Australia’s digital future. This makes it ever so important that access decisions made today will play a strategic role in what will be available for end consumers in the future.

“The ideal scenario would be for all network operators to allow MVNOs access to existing infrastructure funded by the black spot program, what means more choice for consumers. Hopefully, a successful neutral host trial will lead operators and regulators in this direction.”

Commpete will continue to challenge the status quo and to advocate that publicly funded or subsidised telecommunications infrastructure needs to follow open access principles. This helps to distribute the benefits of the subsidy more broadly and will promote competition.

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About Commpete

Commpete is Australia’s leading alliance representing challenger providers of digital communications for retail and wholesale customers. For more information, visit www.commpete.org.au.

¹ The active neutral host design allows multiple MNOs onto a single infrastructure using one set of equipment to broadcast all MNO services,