

COMPETE SAYS LABOR HAS OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE TELCO SECTOR



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Commpete, an organisation representing some Australian challenger telecommunications brands, congratulated Anthony Albanese and the Australian Labor Party on their victory in the federal election.

Commpete says it wishes to recognise the re-election of Michelle Rowland [*pictured on front page*] and looks forward to working with her as the likely Minister for Communications. Commpete appreciates the many years of commitment to the telecommunications sector Ms. Rowland has demonstrated as a Shadow Communications Minister, ably supported by her expert team of advisors.

Commpete says it strongly supports a Labor commitment to reform the telecommunications sector. Real opportunities exist for the incoming Labor Government including;

- mobile competition policy;
- optimisation of spectrum allocations for broad, efficient usage for the best interests of consumers and business; and
- the importance of decisions relating to NBN ownership as a significant piece of critical public infrastructure and the impact a potential sale would have on our nation.



Commpete chair Michelle Lim [*pictured*] said: “The incoming Labor Government has incredible opportunity to create a more inclusive sector which comprises a diverse mix of new entrants, strong independent dynamic challengers as well as established incumbents. Commpete and our members are looking forward to working together with the new Government throughout the next term.”

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“On behalf of our members I wish to thank Minister Paul Fletcher and Minister Bridget McKenzie for their hard work and ongoing engagement with Commpete. The important journey to boost communications access and quality services in regional Australia will continue and must include further measures to encourage big business to the bush, and also create a framework for the sector to ensure greater choice, value, competition and affordability. Doing this will ensure no-one, anywhere in Australia, is left behind,” Lim continued.

“The journey to reform regional communications and competition begun under the previous government when it kickstarted development of open access competition in regional Australia. Further initiatives supported by Commpete included policy and funding mandates encouraging neutral host models, the Regional Communications funding boosts, commitment to blackspots programs and their review, and funding 800km of regional mobile deployment under an open access regime.

“We thank the outgoing Government, welcome the new Government and look forward to working with industry in the many exciting changes afoot. Commpete will continue to work with all Government bodies and regulators on both, social and economic policy settings to frame important future reforms by a Labor government,” said Lim.

Chris Coughlan

ANALYST: HUAWEI AND ZTE EXPULSION IN CANADA MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SPLINTERNET

Canada has implemented a ban against China’s two biggest telecom equipment providers—Huawei and ZTE—to protect national security, joining the so-called Five Eyes intelligence sharing-network.

According to a [Reuters](#) report, Industry Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne told reporters in Ottawa that providers who have Huawei and ZTE’s equipment installed will be required to cease its use and remove it in line with the announcement.

Companies will be required to dismantle and remove their 5G gear by 2024 and would not be reimbursed. Companies using 4G equipment must be removed by 2027, Champagne ordered.

The Canadian Government’s decision to ban the Chinese providers was already expected following diplomatic tensions. The Five Eyes network—consisting of Canada, US, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand—has already banned the equipment.

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According to Reuters, it was in September 2018 that Canada first announced it will review possible threats to national security in adopting Huawei equipment.

In December 2018, Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada on a US warrant alleging that she violated US trade sanctions against Iran, according to [iTWire](#), but was freed last September 2021.

Following Meng's arrest, two Canadians in Beijing were arrested and accused of espionage. The two were released the same day as Meng.

[Huawei Canada](#) said it was disappointed with the government's decision, which it described as "political."

"This is an unfortunate political decision that has nothing to do with cyber security or any of the technologies in question," it said in a statement.

GlobalData associate analyst in thematic team [Rory Gopsill](#) commented on the ban, warning the expulsion may have consequences: Western/allied countries are contributing to splinternet, an internet fragmented into competing technospheres.

"Before this, Huawei had been expelled from the 5G networks of the US and numerous allies, including the UK, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Taiwan. Increasingly unwelcome in Western countries, Huawei, ZTE, and other Chinese tech companies such as Hikvision will have to export their technological products elsewhere," Gopsill said.

Gopsill also provided context that China is already having success exporting 'safe cities', referring to packages of broadband and facial surveillance technologies for smart cities to countries in Southeast Asia, Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Supplying infrastructure to these regions, according to Gopsill, is how competing technospheres form.

"As for Canada, its 5G rollout will certainly be slowed by this decision. Providers that have already installed equipment from Huawei and ZTE will need to remove and replace it and current disruptions to global supply chains will not make this any cheaper or any easier," he said

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“According to GlobalData’s Patent Analytics, China’s granting authority has filed more 5G patents than any other country since January 2019 – more than double the US’ publications and roughly quadruple the European Patent Office’s. Shunning Chinese 5G providers means the US and its allies need to invest more in 5G technologies to maintain competitive network quality,” Gopsill concluded.

Kenn Anthony Mendoza

AIIA URGES LABOR GOVERNMENT TO APPOINT DEDICATED DIGITAL MINISTER FOLLOWING ELECTION VICTORY

Australia’s peak body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association AIIA, has called for a cabinet level **Government Services and Digital Economy Minister**.

The [AIIA](#) made its call when congratulating the incoming Prime Minister Anthony Albanese [*pictured*] and his team following its victory at the federal election.



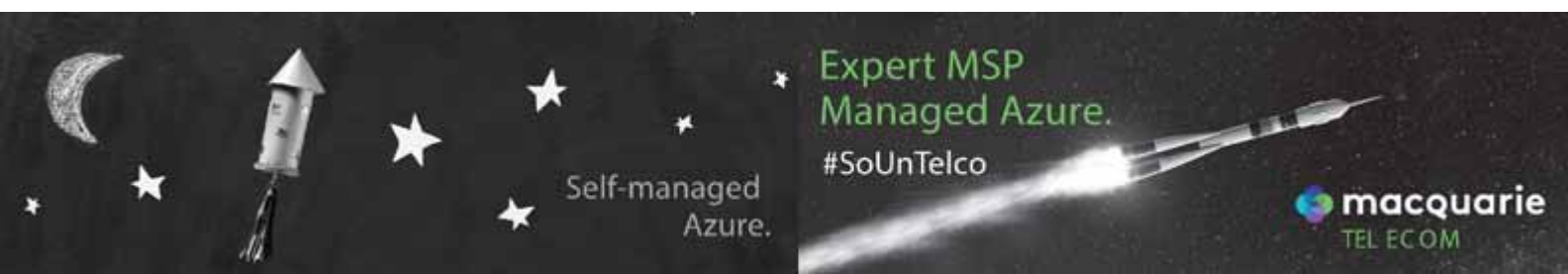
The AIIA says innovation and digital technologies are crucial to Australia’s continued economic growth and prosperity as Australia’s economy is increasingly underpinned by digital technologies.

“The AIIA looks forward to working with the new Labor Government on implementation of its election policies including on skills and critical technologies such as AI and Quantum and its Future Made in Australia policy to support domestic tech procurement. It is with this in mind that the AIIA urges Labor to appoint a cabinet level Government Services and Digital Economy Minister.

The AIIA says its proposed Minister of Government Services and the Digital Economy would be directly responsible for ensuring that

Australia is a leading digital government by 2025 and subsequently a leading digital economy by 2030.

(Continued)



The AIIA also says it has identified there is now a need to better align and coordinate the various digital economy initiatives under one Minister and one portfolio - and the previous Digital Economy Minister – a minister the AIIA called for – has already been coordinating policy and arguing for important budget initiatives, adding that creation of the Digital Economy Minister “has been a good first step but now the opportunity is to have a Minister with a singular focus and broaden the scope of digital accountabilities within that portfolio”.

AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci said: “Congratulations to Anthony Albanese and the Labor Party for the election victory. The AIIA looks forward to working closely with the Labor Party to develop and deliver policy for our critical technologies, tech regulation, manufacturing and to address our urgent digital skills shortage. The government has the opportunity to cement Australia as a leading digital economy by 2030, which would be a significant achievement and something to be incredibly proud of.

“A dedicated cabinet level Minister of Government Services and the Digital Economy is needed to deliver on the digital opportunities available to Australia. The growth of Australia’s digital and innovation economy demands a dedicated minister, as it is now Australia’s third largest economic sector.

“Our sector could easily employ 1.5 million Australians in the next few years if the government addresses our skills shortage and supports the sector. Our members have told us they are increasingly looking overseas for employees due to the talent squeeze. Red tape is restricting the digital economy and could be far better targets and coordinated. A dedicated cabinet minister is needed to address these issues and support the ongoing growth of our digital economy.

“The recent funding commitments for our innovation sector, digital skills and critical industries are extremely pleasing. However, we have seen in recent years funding being committed but held up by bureaucracy, causing significant delays in the funding reaching industry. Our commercialisation of Australian IP needs greater support to continue to deliver growth and jobs in Australia, ensuring our IP is not sold overseas. A dedicated minister will support seeing the funding delivered to industry to support Australia’s digital economy and digital capabilities.

“The AIIA will seek to work with the incoming government on its Future Made in Australia domestic procurement policy to ensure Australian ICT companies are strongly considered to work with the government. The AIIA looks forward to meeting with the government to continue to discuss how our innovation and digital technologies can support Australia’s continued economic prosperity and leadership in the digital economy,”Gauci concluded.

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OvertheWire

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The AIIA released their [Federal Government Pre-Budget and Pre-Election Policy Submission 2022](#), detailing 24 key recommendations to support Australia's tech sector to grow and support the Australian economy, selected recommendations include:

- **Australia's Skills Agenda:** including recommending reforming the Australian Curriculum to prioritise the Digital Economy and Industry 5.0 capabilities for primary and secondary school students.
- **Emerging Critical Technologies:** Includes a Quantum Strategy to be executed within 12 months, which notes additional funding and establishes a National AI Commercialisation Hub.
- **Domestic Capability:** Establish a 'Made in Australia' Office within the DPM&C.
- **Commercialisation Agenda:** Undertake urgent work to support globally-viable commercialisation off the back of government-assisted research. Create a separate R&D software tax incentive and expand the limited scope of the proposed patent box.

Staff Writer

OPEN RAN REVENUES SURGED IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2022: DELL'ORO GROUP

Open RAN revenues including O-RAN and OpenRAN radio and baseband surged in the first quarter of 2022, according to RAN Quarterly Report, a study by market analyst Dell'Oro Group.

"The migration towards new architectures, including Open RAN and vRAN, continued to move in the right direction in the first quarter, bolstering the narrative that the shift toward open interfaces is here to stay," explains Dell'Oro Group vice president and analyst [Stefan Pongratz](#).

"The surge in the first quarter taken together with impending portfolio advancements form the basis for the more favourable short-term outlook," Pongratz says.

The report highlights the following findings:

- Open RAN revenues more than doubled in the first quarter, supported by strong growth in both the Asia Pacific and North America.

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- The growth of vRAN market in the second half of 2021 extended into the first quarter, spurring vRAN revenues to nearly quadrupled in the first quarter.
- Global Open RAN and vRAN projections have been revised upward to reflect the strong showing in the first quarter.
- Total Open RAN revenues are now expected to account for 3% to 5% of the global 2022 RAN market.



The [RAN Quarterly Report](#) provides a complete overview of the RAN industry, covering manufacturers' and market revenue for multiple RAN segments including 5G NR Sub-6 GHz, 5G NR mmWave, LTE, macro base stations and radios, small cells, Massive Mimo, Open RAN, and vRAN.

Kenn Anthony Mendoza

ACS CONGRATULATES LABOR ON FEDERAL ELECTION WIN

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) is the professional association for Australia's tech sector, and it has congratulated Anthony Albanese and the ALP on its success in winning the 2022 Federal Election.

The [ACS](#) hasn't said it, but I will - you can't spell Labor without Albo. Of course, we all hope the new government makes Australia a better place than it is today, so what does the ACS have to say when it comes to technology?



Here's its statement in full:

The new government has an opportunity to boost technology investment and address Australia's chronic technology skills shortage, says ACS President, [Dr Nick Tate](#) [pictured on the left].

"ACS looks forward to working with Mr Albanese's team to develop programs that encourage young Australians to study IT related fields, workers to retrain in digital skills, and businesses to invest in emerging technologies," Dr Tate said.

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“Labor’s plans to build Australia’s advanced manufacturing sector will require a strong national investment in digital skills as well as incentives for business to invest in emerging technologies and we look forward to working with the government in achieving this.

“As Labor pointed out during the election campaign, Australia has fallen down the ranks of the World Intellectual Property Organisation’s Global Innovation Index, having fallen five places to 25th over the past three years.

“In our 2022 Election Platform, ACS outlined nine proposals to boost Australia’s technology sector and we would look forward to Labor implementing these and more, in order to address our decline in innovation rankings and boost the nation’s productivity.

“If we are going to ensure Australia’s future prosperity then we have to address that decline while ensuring the nation has the skills to take advantage of the 21st Century’s digital economy,” Dr Tate concluded.

The ACS 2022 Election Platform – Building Australia’s Digital Future – can be downloaded from the [ACS website](#).

Alex Zaharov-Reutt

LABOR NEEDS TO MAKE HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND MORE AFFORDABLE: BUDDE

The Australian Labor Party’s pledge during the election campaign to offer 90% of broadband users in the country higher speeds will not have the intended effect unless the price of the technology is lowered, the independent telecommunications analyst Paul Budde says.



He made the statement on Monday as Labor edged closer to towards governing in its own right following Saturday’s elections, with the [party having picked up](#) its 75th lower-house seat, according to the Australian Electoral Commission.

“...there is a commitment to extend fibre deeper into the market,” Budde [pictured] pointed out. “However, the real problem is the high costs of the NBN; this makes the wholesale price higher and, therefore, also the retail price.

“Australians love high-speed broadband, they took it on when it was available on a special offer, but as soon as the offer ended they dropped back to lower speeds - a clear indication that it has everything to do with affordability.

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“Labor has promised 90% connections to high speed by 2025. But that is not enough; will the high-speed broadband service also be affordable? If Labor is serious about a high-speed broadband service for all, they will have to do something about affordability.

“Not an easy solution, a painful write-off in one way or another is the only real medicine to the NBN illness.”

Budde also discussed other technology incentives that Labor promised during the campaign, pointing out that the party had indicated it would be willing to spend \$3 billion, from a \$15 billion reconstruction spend, on increasing innovation, the digital economy, etc.

“It will be interesting to see how this all will pan out,” he commented. “The question remains, will this government indeed be able to make some structural changes to the economy and society? The pandemic has seen a change occurring, but more change is needed.

“Will Labor be indeed be more progressive or will it end up with just a slightly more red colour than the previous government. If Labor is serious we should be able to see structural changes being announced within the first 100 days.

After that, politics will start looking to protect the next elections, which will be less risk-taking and more conservative. Obviously, technology can be a transformational tool and if the money is used for that purpose, we can indeed see structural changes. At the start of a new government there is always hope.”

Sam Varghese

The logo for CommsWire, featuring the word "CommsWire" in a stylized, white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark blue gradient with a white waveform pattern at the top and several glowing blue circles of varying sizes scattered throughout.

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