

# Industry Engagement - Questions and Answers

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Industry Engagement - General	
<p><b>How is the PSMB Taskforce engaging with industry?</b></p>	<p>An initial Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Industry Briefing was held in December 2023.</p> <p>During Q1 2024, the Taskforce invited industry organisations to participate in bilateral meetings to provide information on their current and potential service and technical offerings.</p> <p>The PSMB is currently undertaking a Request for Information (RFI) – refer Market Approach below). Information obtained from these bilateral engagements has informed the development of the RFI.</p> <p>The RFI is designed to maximise industry engagement. In addition, industry briefings are planned as part of the RFI.</p>
Market Approach	
<p><b>When do you expect to approach the market?</b></p>	<p>The RFI is the first phase of a two-staged market approach. <b>The RFI was released on AusTender on 12 July 2024.</b></p> <p>A Request for Tender (RFT) will be the second phase of the market approach. The RFT is planned for the second half of 2025. This is subject to the outcome of the RFI and government consideration at both the Federal level and state and territory levels of the options and costings for delivering a national PSMB capability.</p>
<p><b>How long will industry have to respond to the RFI and RFT?</b></p>	<p>The RFI is open for an 8 week timeframe. <b>The closing date for the RFI is Friday, 6 September 2024.</b></p> <p>The timeframe for responses to the RFT is yet to be determined.</p>
<p><b>Who will be eligible to participate in the RFI and the RFT?</b></p>	<p>The RFI is designed to maximise industry engagement. Please refer to the Conditions of the RFI on AusTender for further information.</p>
<p><b>How do you plan to involve smaller, local suppliers and equipment providers outside the MNOs and larger vendors?</b></p>	<p>We are considering all options and will be looking to industry to provide solutions which maximise coverage, availability, transparency, security and value for money, including options that incorporate smaller providers and/or equipment vendors.</p>

<b>What type of information will be sought through the RFI process?</b>	<p>The RFI seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gather information on what technical and service offerings for a PSMB capability/network solution are available in the market, and</li> <li>learn the costs involved in establishing, operating and maintaining a national PSMB capability/network in Australia.</li> </ul> <p>Further information is contained in the RFI documentation available on AusTender.</p>
<b>Funding and Opt-in by Jurisdictions</b>	
<b>How much funding will be available for the national PSMB capability?</b>	<p>Further information is needed to fully consider requirements, delivery model options and costs for a national PSMB network.</p> <p>Following the RFI process, responses will be assessed and a preferred delivery model(s) will be identified. This will enable cost modelling to be undertaken. Industry input on solutions and costs from the RFI will help inform this modelling. This will inform business cases and co-funding arrangements to be developed and considered at both the Federal level and state and territory levels. This work is planned to occur during the 2024-25 financial year.</p>
<b>Will all jurisdictions agree to make a commitment to co-fund and opt-in to use the national PSMB capability?</b>	<p>The Commonwealth and state and territory governments are working together to progress the national PSMB capability. Decisions on funding and opting-in are a matter for Government and are under active joint consideration by all Parties.</p>
<b>National Capability considerations</b>	
<b>What is the expected timeframe for delivering the PSMB?</b>	<p>The timeframe for delivery of a PSMB capability will be informed by the approach to market, consideration of capability costings by the Australian Government as well as state and territory governments, and future contract negotiations.</p>
<b>What is the proposed architecture for the PSMB?</b>	<p>The proposed architecture for the PSMB is still under consideration and will be contingent on and informed by solutions provided through the RFI process.</p> <p>The PSMB Taskforce has worked extensively with all jurisdictions to develop an agreed set of national requirements. These national requirements have been included in the RFI and be consistent with the National Objectives agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2018 and the two additional National Objectives proposed by Recommendation 3 of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review.</p> <p>The inclusion of the agreed set of national requirements in the RFI, and responses provided to the RFI will enable us to assess the preferred delivery model/s, architectures and associated costs that meet PSA and jurisdictional requirements and provides value for money.</p> <p>We will consider all options and will be looking to industry to provide solutions which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meet jurisdictional PSA requirements</li> <li>maximise coverage, availability, security, and</li> <li>provide value for money.</li> </ul>

<p><b>How many PSMB users do you foresee requiring access to the network?</b></p>	<p>This information is currently being collected from each jurisdiction and will form part of a national business case.</p>
<p><b>Will the PSMB use dedicated spectrum?</b></p>	<p>The 2022 PSMB Strategic Review provided a clear pathway to deliver a PSMB capability without the use of dedicated spectrum. It found that accessing spectrum through commercial arrangements with mobile network operators should become the focus of an initial PSMB implementation.</p>
<p><b>Will the existing infrastructure of the MNOs be used for developing the PSMB?</b></p>	<p>Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review, the initial focus is on utilising existing MNO infrastructure, while also considering how the coverage and resilience of those networks can be leveraged and aligned with other relevant Commonwealth, state and territory programs. That said, all viable options will be considered. We will be looking to industry to provide solutions which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meet jurisdictional PSA requirements</li> <li>• maximise coverage, availability, security, and</li> <li>• provide value for money.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Most international examples have built their own core. Is this something you are also looking at doing?</b></p>	<p>We are considering all options and will be looking to industry to provide solutions which maximise coverage, availability, transparency, security and value for money.</p>
<p><b>Are you looking at a small scale pilot project or full nationwide launch?</b></p>	<p>We will know more after we have had a chance to formally assess solution designs from the market. We are open to considering all viable delivery models, particularly proposals that allow for an early launch of a national PSMB capability.</p>
<p><b>Are you planning to migrate users from state and territory government radio networks, such as P25 LMR, to PSMB? If so, over what timeframe?</b></p>	<p>In the short and medium term, this is unlikely. These decisions are also most likely to be made by individual jurisdictions. Solutions which support interworking of Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks with a PSMB core are within scope of the RFI. The importance of the existing LMR networks as a viable mission critical capability will remain a key consideration for a number of years.</p>
<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>	
<p><b>Will the PSMB consider investments in other government programs such as the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) and Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP)?</b></p>	<p>Consistent with Government's response to Recommendation 9 of the 2022 PSMB Strategic Review, the PSMB Taskforce will consult with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to consider how to best leverage and align with other relevant Australian Government programs where possible.</p>

<p><b>Will there be any Legislative or Regulatory measures imposed in relation to the national PSMB capability?</b></p>	<p>It is standard practice for the Australian Government to undertake a Regulatory Impact Statement and consult with affected parties on any legislative or regulatory measures that may be required, which could have an impact on relevant markets.</p> <p>The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will work with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on any such measures, which may also require consultation with the Australian Competition &amp; Consumer Commission (ACCC).</p>
<p><b>Additional Information</b></p>	
<p><b>Where can I find out more about the PSMB Program?</b></p>	<p>Further information can be found on NEMA's website at <a href="#">Public Safety Mobile Broadband   National Emergency Management Agency</a> and in the <a href="#">Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) Fact Sheet</a>.</p>