



**Senator Malcolm Roberts**  
One Nation Senator for Queensland

25 October 2024

Hon Michelle Rowland MP  
Minister for Communications  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Rowland

As you are aware, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) recently released a determination ([F2024L01353](#)) that, if implemented, may compel telecommunications companies to discontinue service for more than 250,000 4G and 5G phones. This decision follows an alarmingly brief period of public consultation and is set to take effect on 1 November, leaving Parliament insufficient time to deliberate on its implications.

This policy change, ostensibly put forth as part of the 3G shutdown, has morphed into an unintended 4G and 5G shutdown. The financial burden on Australian consumers for the replacement of 4 & 5G devices alone is projected by telco expert James Parker at \$44 million alone in the middle of an ongoing cost of living crisis.

The root of this regulation lies in a fear that certain devices may malfunction when attempting emergency calls across different networks. Penalising hundreds of thousands of phone users without verifiable evidence that their phones would indeed be in a situation where they fail is a disproportionate response. The communication that this is solely a 3G phase-out, whilst impacting numerous 4 & 5G devices, is deceptive.

In your capacity as Communications Minister, I plead for you to intervene. I strongly urge you to revoke this new rule by ACMA immediately and separately, to postpone the 3G shutdown. Countries across the globe have opted for delays extending several years into the future, recognising the need for a gradual transition.

in the middle of a cost of living crisis we cannot expect Australians to replace mobiles that work. I trust you will make the prudent decision given your commitment to public welfare and safety. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Roberts'.

**Malcolm Roberts**