



Australian Government



Critical  
Infrastructure  
Centre

# What is the Critical Infrastructure Centre?

The Critical Infrastructure Centre brings together expertise and capability from across the Australian Government to manage the complex and evolving national security risks from foreign involvement in Australia's critical infrastructure. The Centre is focused on assessing the risks of sabotage, espionage and coercion in the five priority sectors of telecommunications, electricity, gas, water and ports.

## What infrastructure is critical?

Critical infrastructure underpins the functioning of Australia's society and economy and is integral to the prosperity of the nation.

Commonwealth and state and territory governments share the following definition of critical infrastructure:

***'those physical facilities, supply chains, information technologies and communication networks which, if destroyed, degraded or rendered unavailable for an extended period, would significantly impact the social or economic wellbeing of the nation or affect Australia's ability to conduct national defence and ensure national security'.***

Secure and resilient infrastructure ensures we have continuous access to services that are essential for everyday life, such as food, water, health, energy, communications, transport and banking. It also supports productivity and helps to drive the business activity that underpins economic growth.

## What is the Centre doing to safeguard critical infrastructure?

The Centre focuses on the potential for malicious actors to gain access and control to Australia's critical infrastructure, through ownership, offshoring, outsourcing and supply chain arrangements.

We collaborate with owners and operators and state and territory regulators to identify risks and develop and implement asset-specific mitigation strategies and sector-wide best practice guidelines.

Reflecting telecommunications' status as the highest risk sector, the Centre administers the *Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, which will place new security obligations on carriers and carriage service providers.

Similar to these reforms, the Government has also introduced new regulatory measures under the Security of Critical Infrastructure Bill 2017 to strengthen our ability to protect assets in the electricity, gas, water and ports sectors.

We want to make sure all businesses are equipped to manage national security risks.

## Trusted Information Sharing Network

The Centre engages with critical infrastructure owners and operators through the Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN), and directly as needed.

Critical infrastructure owners and operators can seek membership in the TISN sector groups by contacting us using the details below.