



3G network closure - are fleets at risk?

- The impact of the forthcoming 3G network closure is critically important to address.
- Fleets need to act now to ensure they are not left without options when the 3G network closure occurs.



What's happening?

Telstra, Optus and Vodafone have announced the closure of the Australian 3G networks. Vodafone will commence its closure in late 2023, and Telstra and Optus in mid-2024.

This means that all systems relying on the 3G network for communication are likely to experience limited function from those dates onwards. This includes vehicle telematics systems.

Telematics systems of various types have featured prominently within the Australian heavy vehicle fleet for over two decades. These systems may perform critical fleet management functions such as position tracking and reporting, axle mass reporting, speed and fatigue monitoring, and assist in ensuring the fleet is available and safe to operate.

Telematics providers have been supplying 4G and 5G systems for some time, but there could be tens of thousands of 3G systems still in operation throughout Australia.

In some instances, the vehicle owners may be presently relying on the data from those systems to deliver on Chain of Responsibility obligations, such as speed or fatigue monitoring.

What is Chain of Responsibility?

Chain of Responsibility laws exist in many states in Australia.

They impose a primary safety duty on all parties in the transport chain to ensure the safety of their transport operations.

The benefits of telematics

Telematics systems drive improved productivity and safety in fleets.

They unlock the incredible power of fleet data and provide a level of fleet management and profitability that is difficult to get through other means.

What to do

- Work with your telematics system provider to identify which vehicles in your fleet are fitted with 3G systems
- Review the market to find a system provider and product that best suits your needs, and arrange for any necessary systems to be upgraded.

Important points

- Some telematics providers may be impacted by low stock levels, or resource shortages
- There may be a longer-than-expected lead time for system upgrades
- It is critical to act quickly