



Australian Government



Critical
Infrastructure
Centre



What is the Critical Infrastructure Centre?

The Australian Government established the Critical Infrastructure Centre (the Centre) in January 2017, to safeguard Australia's critical infrastructure. The Centre brings together expertise and capability from across the Australian Government to manage the increasingly complex national security risks of sabotage, espionage and coercion.

What infrastructure is critical?

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

The Australian 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'.

Critical infrastructure provides services that are essential for everyday life such as energy, communications, water, transport, health, food and grocery, banking and finance, and the Australian Government. Secure and resilient infrastructure supports productivity, and helps to drive the business activities that underpin economic growth.

What is the Centre doing to safeguard critical infrastructure?

The Centre is focused on helping owners and operators better understand and manage risk, and build resilience. The Centre does this by conducting risk assessments and providing advice to reduce the

potential for malicious actors to gain access to, and control of, Australia's critical infrastructure through ownership, offshoring, outsourcing and supply chain arrangements.

The Centre aims to ensure all businesses are equipped to manage national security risks.

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

Additionally, the Centre also administers the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* to strengthen the Australian Government's ability to manage national security risks in the electricity, gas, water and ports sectors.

Trusted Information Sharing Network

The Centre engages with critical infrastructure owners and operators directly as needed. The Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) provides a secure, non-competitive environment for critical infrastructure owners and operators to share information and collaborate across eight sector groups.



What is the Critical Infrastructure Centre?

Owners, operators and regulators of critical infrastructure are the first line of defence. The ongoing stability and safety of Australia's critical infrastructure is a shared responsibility, which is why the Australian Government has adopted a partnership approach with industry and state and territory governments.

Critical infrastructure owners and operators can seek membership in the TISN sector groups or engage directly with the Centre on +61 2 6141 3338 or by emailing enquiries@cicentre.gov.au.