

lio.” Rowland said that in many ways Australia is starting to push ahead of the curve with the Australian Communications and Media Authority substantially reducing pricing for apparatus licences above 5 GHz, and Australia’s spectrum is generally allocated in “helpfully large blocks of substantial regional areas or national licences which are better suited than the fragmented US regional licensing system.”

The Government will take a measured approach which assesses sovereignty and other considerations, but will accelerate efforts ensure that Australia is able to capture the important benefits which are likely to accrue from LEOsats, she said.

Grahame Lynch

NSW sees ‘huge interest’ in mobile sharing initiatives

Shared mobile coverage in regional and rural areas “is a win for citizens, the government and for the telecommunications industry,” Department of Regional NSW secretary Rebecca Fox yesterday told CommsDay Summit 2023.

“Sharing saves money for the carriers, the taxpayers and the consumer,” Fox told the conference.

“It requires less government funding taken up on single provider solutions, particularly when multicarrier mobile coverage is desired by the community. It creates a reduced carbon footprint, more efficient use of resources, reducing the need for new infrastructure. It increases competition, which should lead to lower prices, improved service quality, and increased innovation.

“And it allows mobile users from both city and the region to access reliable mobile coverage, no matter what carrier they are using.”

The NSW government in February announced it had signed the first agreement as part of the implementation phase of Active Sharing Partnership program, in the form of a \$5.5 million deal with OneWifi and Pivotel.

That deal followed an initial design phase that along with those companies included BAI Communications, NEC, Optus, Telstra, TPG and Field Solutions Group, and explored multiple streams of sharing solutions, including MOCN, MORAN, Open RAN and roaming.

The NSW government has previously indicated it expects to sign further sharing deals. Fox said the experience of the program so far was that sharing was more of a commercial challenge than a technical one. “Technical barriers are often presented to dismiss sharing options and arrangements, but really the commercial dynamics drive this decision making,” she said.

There has been a “huge amount of interest” in the active sharing program across all state and territories and at the federal level as well, she said. “One thing that is certain is that change is coming,” Fox said. “We need the telecommunications industry to work with governments at all levels to solve these issues.”

Rohan Pearce