

6G · NETWORKS · BUYING DECISIONS

6G Is Being Designed Now. You Buy Phones Today.

Australia helped found the coalition writing the security rules for 6G, and 2026 has been its busiest year. Almost none of it will touch your business this decade. One part of it should change what you sign.

The Global Coalition on Telecommunications was founded in October 2023 by Australia, Canada, Japan, the UK and the US, an officials-level forum covering supply chain diversification, future telecommunications, security and resilience, skills and standards. In 2026 it added Finland and Sweden on 3 March, endorsed its **Security and Resilience Principles for 6G** the same day (containment, confidentiality, integrity, resilience, regulatory compliance), took on the EU as its first strategic partner in May, and Australia joined a US-led initiative with 20+ governments on secure, AI-supported 6G. Telstra and Ericsson signed a letter of intent on 6G research in Australia in May 2026, and industry has committed to **commercialisation from 2029 onwards**. So: no 6G standard, no spectrum, no devices, nothing to buy.

The short version

Claim	Reality in August 2026
"6G is coming soon"	Industry leaders committed in March 2026 to a trajectory towards commercialisation <i>from 2029 onwards</i> . Broad Australian coverage follows years after that.
"This product is 6G-ready"	There is no finalised 6G standard and no 6G devices. The claim is not verifiable, which makes it marketing.
"6G spectrum is being allocated"	No 6G spectrum is allocated for commercial use in Australia.
"Australia is behind"	Australia is a founding member of the coalition writing 6G security principles, and Telstra signed a 6G research agreement with Ericsson in May 2026.
"You should wait before upgrading"	Waiting a decade for a network generation is not a communications strategy. The relevant question is 5G Standalone coverage today.

■ Also worth knowing

Date	Development	Significance
3 Mar 2026	Finland and Sweden join GCOT at Mobile World Congress.	Both host major network equipment vendors. The forum now includes builders, not only buyers.
3 Mar 2026	GCOT endorses its Security and Resilience Principles for 6G.	Security expectations stated while the architecture is still open, rather than retrofitted afterwards.
Mar 2026	Qualcomm and other industry leaders commit to a 6G trajectory towards commercialisation from 2029 onwards.	The clearest public timeline available, and the one to plan against.
May 2026	The European Union becomes GCOT's first strategic partner.	Ties the principles to the world's most consequential telecommunications regulator.
May 2026	Telstra and Ericsson sign a letter of intent on 6G research, trials and network innovation in Australia.	Australia moves from policy participant to research host.
Jul 2026	Australia joins 20+ governments in a US NTIA-led initiative on secure, interoperable, AI-supported 6G.	Widens the alignment on 6G security well beyond GCOT's seven members.

Why a country that builds no network equipment bothers

Australia does not manufacture mobile network infrastructure. That is precisely why coordinated policy matters here: acting alone, Australia is a small buyer with limited leverage over what gets built and how it is secured. Acting with the US, UK, Japan, Canada, and now Finland, Sweden and the EU, it is part of a bloc large enough that vendors design to its expectations. Standards work is how a mid-sized economy gets influence disproportionate to its purchase orders.

■ Questions the full guide answers

- ☐ Is 6G something my business needs to plan for now?
- ☐ What is the Global Coalition on Telecommunications and why is Australia in it?
- ☐ What do the GCOT 6G security principles actually say?
- ☐ What did the 3G shutdown teach Australian businesses?
- ☐ Should I delay upgrading my phone system until networks settle down?
- ☐ Is AI in networks a 6G thing or is it available now?
- ☐ What is Open RAN and does it affect my business?

This is the summary. The guide has the detail.

Every point above is worked through in full on our site, with the Australian context, the numbers and the exceptions. If you would rather talk it through, call **1300 663 222** or visit vocphone.com/about/contact-us.