



Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988

Part VIII

Notice of Extension of Licence – Telstra Corporation Limited (No 15 of 2022)

Background

- A. Telstra Corporation Limited, ABN 33 051 775 556 (**Licensee**), was declared to be eligible to be granted a licence under Part VIII of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (Cth) (**SRC Act**) on 19 June 1992.
- B. The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (**Commission**), acting under sections 103 and 104 of the SRC Act, granted a licence to the Licensee on 19 June 1992 with a commencement date of 30 June 1992.
- C. The Commission, acting under subsection 105(1) of the SRC Act, extends the term of the licence for the period commencing at the beginning of 1 July 2022 (Australian Eastern Standard Time) and ending at the end of 30 June 2030 (Australian Eastern Standard Time).
- D. The scope and conditions of the licence are as set out below.

Licence

Part 1 – Interpretation

Interpretation

1. Unless the contrary intention appears, expressions used in this instrument have the same meaning as in the SRC Act.¹

Definitions

2. In this licence:
 - (a) *APRA* means the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority;
 - (b) *Balance Date* means the last day of the Financial Year immediately before the first Financial Year to which the Guarantee being obtained under condition 41 will relate;
 - (c) *Deed of Guarantee and Indemnity* means a deed of guarantee and indemnity approved by the Commission;
 - (d) *Document* means document as that word is defined by section 2B of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* (Cth);
 - (e) *Excess Amount* has the meaning as defined in condition 53;
 - (f) *Financial Year* means the financial year that applies to the licensee under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth);
 - (g) *Guarantee* means a bank guarantee, letter of credit, unconditional payment undertaking or such other instrument issued by an entity acceptable to the Commission in accordance with this licence;
 - (h) *Liability Report* has the meaning as defined in condition 30;
 - (i) *Licensee* includes, where the context permits, the Claims Manager;
 - (j) *Outstanding Claim Liability* has the meaning as defined in the Institute of Actuaries of Australia Professional Standard 302 “Valuations of General Insurance Claims”, or any standard substituted thereof;
 - (k) *Recommended Excess Amount* has the meaning as defined in condition 32(c);
 - (l) *Reinsurance Policy* has the meaning as defined in condition 52; and
 - (m) *Risk Free Rate* means the rates to be used in discounting the expected future claims payments of insurance liabilities denominated in Australian currency as determined in accordance with APRA Prudential Standard GPS 340: Insurance Liability Valuation, or any standard or associated standard, substituted thereof.

Part 2 – Grant of Licence

¹ For the purposes of this licence, the definition of *claim* prescribed by section 99 of the SRC Act applies.

Eligible applicant

3. The Licensee was declared to be eligible to be granted a licence under Part VIII of the SRC Act on 19 June 1992.

Licence decisions

4. The Commission, acting under sections 103 and 104 of the SRC Act, granted a licence to the Licensee on 19 June 1992 for the period commencing 30 June 1992 as notified by Notice No. 3 of 1992 in the Commonwealth Gazette No. GN 26 on 1 July 1992.
5. Following its commencement, the licence has been varied or extended by the Commission on:
 - (i) 6 June 2003, as notified by Notice No. 1 of 2003 in the Commonwealth Gazette No. P7 on 1 July 2003;
 - (ii) 10 June 2004, as notified by Notice No. 10 of 2004, in Commonwealth Gazette No. P4 on 30 June 2004;
 - (iii) 10 March 2005, as notified by Notice No. 1 of 2005, in Commonwealth Gazette No. S41 on 11 March 2005;
 - (iv) 27 June 2006, as notified by Notice No. 4 of 2006, in Commonwealth Gazette No. S118 on 30 June 2006;
 - (v) 23 April 2007, as notified by Notice No. 7 of 2007, in Commonwealth Gazette No. GN17 on 2 May 2007;
 - (vi) 3 May 2007, as notified by Notice No. 12 of 2007, in Commonwealth Gazette No. S84 on 7 May 2007;
 - (vii) 18 June 2008, as notified by Notice No. 31 of 2008, in Commonwealth Gazette No. GN25 on 25 June 2008;
 - (viii) 23 March 2010, as notified by Notice No. 8 of 2010, in Commonwealth Gazette No. GN12 on 31 March 2010;
 - (ix) 16 March 2011, as notified by Notice No. 5 of 2011, in Commonwealth Gazette No. GN12 on 30 March 2011;
 - (x) 12 June 2014, as notified by Notice No. 13 of 2014, Gazette reference number C2014G01659 on 8 October 2014;
 - (xi) 1 October 2015, as notified by Notice No. 19 of 2015, Gazette reference number C2015G01653, published on 13 October 2015;
 - (xii) 28 June 2016, as notified by Notice No. 37 of 2016, Gazette reference number C2016G00928, published on 4 July 2016;

- (xiii) 28 June 2017, as notified by Notice No. 33 of 2017, Gazette reference number C2017G00788, published on 12 July 2017 (replaced by Notice No. 44 of 2017, Gazette reference number C2017G01253, published on 24 November 2017); and
- (xiv) 14 March 2018, as notified by Notice No. 1 of 2018, in Gazette reference number C2018G00206, published on 16 March 2018;
- (xv) 9 December 2019, as notified by Notice No. 38 of 2019, in Gazette reference number C2019G01155, published on 19 December 2019;
- (xvi) 29 June 2021, as notified by Notice No. 38 of 2021, in Gazette reference number C2021G00498, published on 19 December 2019;
- (xvii) 13 September 2021, as notified by Notice No. 44 of 2021, in Gazette reference number C2021G00717, published on 15 September 2021;
- (xviii) 1 December 2021, as notified by Notice No. 46 of 2021, in Gazette reference number C2021G00928, published on 2 December 2021; and
- (xix) 9 March 2022, as notified by Notice No. 1 of 2022, in Gazette reference number C2022G00179, published on 9 March 2022.

Period of licence

- 6. Subject to the SRC Act, this licence is for the period commencing immediately after midnight (Australian Eastern Daylight Time) on 30 June 1992 and, in accordance with the most recent extension, ending at the end of 30 June 2030 (Australian Eastern Standard Time) (**Licence Period**).

Part 3 – Scope of Licence

Scope of licence – acceptance of liability

- 7. Subject to clause 8, the Licensee is authorised to accept liability to pay compensation and other amounts under the SRC Act in respect of all injuries, loss or damage suffered by, or in respect of the death of, any of the employees of the Licensee where such injuries, loss, damage or death:
 - (a) occur within the Licence Period; or
 - (b) occurred during a period prior to this licence coming into force.

Acceptance of liability for injuries, loss, damage or death due to asbestos exposure

- 8. This clause makes provision for, but is limited to, the authorisation of the Licensee to accept liability to pay compensation and other amounts arising from claims under the SRC Act in respect of all injuries, loss or damage suffered by, or in respect of the death of, any of the employees of the Licensee caused by exposure to asbestos during the course of their employment by the Commonwealth or the Licensee (**‘asbestos-related claims’**). The Commission has determined as follows in respect of asbestos-related claims:

- (a) where the exposure occurs **before 1 July 1975** - the Licensee is not authorised to accept liability for that period of the exposure;
- (b) where the exposure occurs **during the period between 1 July 1975 and 30 November 1988 inclusive** - the Licensee is authorised to accept 30 per cent of liability for that period of the exposure; and
- (c) where the exposure occurs on or **after 1 December 1988** - the Licensee is authorised to accept 100 per cent of liability for that period of exposure.

*Note 1: Where the exposure occurs **before 1 July 1975**, Comcare assumes 100 percent of the liability for that period of the exposure; and*

*Note 2: Where the exposure occurs **during the period between 1 July 1975 and 30 November 1988 inclusive** - Comcare will assume 70 per cent liability for that period of the exposure; and*

*Note 3: Where the exposure occurs on or **after 1 December 1988** Comcare is not liable for that period of the exposure.*

- 9. For the purposes only of identifying “employees of the Licensee” where that term appears in clause 8:
 - (a) ‘Licensee’ refers to the Licensee and all its predecessor departments, authorities and companies, including the Postmaster General’s Department, the Australian Telecommunications Commission, the Australian Telecommunications Corporation and the Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation.

Scope of licence – management of claims

- 10. This clause makes provision for, but is limited to, the management of asbestos-related claims the subject of clause 8. The Commission has determined as follows in respect to the management of asbestos-related claims:
 - (b) where the claim arises from exposure to asbestos **prior to and ending before 1 July 1975** - the Licensee is not authorised to manage the claim;
 - (c) in any other case - the Licensee is authorised to manage the claim.

*Note: Where the exposure occurs exclusively **before 1 July 1975**, Comcare will manage the claim.*

- 11. The Licensee is authorised to manage claims under the SRC Act made by the employees of the Licensee who are covered by the scope of this licence so far as it relates to the Licensee’s acceptance of liability in accordance with clause 7 and 8 of this licence.

**Note: The Licensee has continuously acted as the nominated claims manager. As of the date of this licence – all previous arrangements have not transpired.*

Part 4 – Conditions of licence

Conditions of licence

12. The licence is granted subject to the following conditions.

General conditions

Communication

13. The Licensee, when bringing employees under its self-insurance licence pursuant to any consolidation or amalgamation process, must provide information to those employees regarding the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) (**WHS Act**) and the SRC Act prior to those employees becoming employees of the Licensee.
14. The Licensee must provide information regarding the operation of the WHS Act and the SRC Act to all new employees as part of the licensee's employee induction process.

Directions of Commission

15. The Licensee must comply with any written directions, whether general or in respect of a particular matter or class of matters, given by the Commission generally, or to the Licensee directly, with respect to the performance by the Licensee of its functions or the exercise of its powers under the SRC Act.

Requirements

16. The Licensee must comply with the requirements of:
- (a) the SRC Act, its Regulations and any applicable guidelines issued by the Commission under section 73A of the SRC Act;
 - (b) any applicable laws of the Commonwealth, States or Territories with respect to the safety, health and rehabilitation of employees, with a particular focus on the statutory requirements for genuine consultation with employees and their representatives; and
 - (c) the relevant Privacy legislation.
17. The Licensee must have regard to guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and must comply with any such guidelines dealing with covert surveillance of employees.

Fees

18. The Licensee must pay the licence fee notified in writing to the Licensee under section 104A of the SRC Act within one month of receiving the notification.
19. On written request from the Commission, the licensee must pay other fees relating to the Licensee's operations under the SRC Act, in the amount and within the timeframe, specified by the Commission.

Manner of managing claims

20. In managing claims, the Licensee:
- (a) must be guided by equity, good conscience and the substantial merits of the case without regard to technicalities;
 - (b) is not required to conduct a hearing; and
 - (c) is not bound by the rules of evidence.

Management systems

21. The Licensee must co-operate with, and give reasonable assistance to, the Commission or its representatives in respect of any targeted reviews and evaluations of the Licensee to be conducted by the Commission or its representatives.
22. The Licensee must report to the Commission as required in accordance with the Performance Standards and Measures to demonstrate that it has maintained its Claims Management, Rehabilitation and WHS management systems, as advised to Comcare.

Reviews and proceedings

23. The Licensee must inform Comcare as soon as practicable of any court or tribunal proceedings in relation to a matter arising in respect of a claim managed by the Licensee under the SRC Act.
24. The Licensee must give to Comcare, within the timeframe specified in the request, any information or documents that Comcare requests in respect of any court or tribunal proceedings in relation to a matter arising in respect of a claim managed by the Licensee under the SRC Act.
25. The Licensee must not cause, or permit to be made on its behalf to a court or tribunal any submission that Comcare or the Commission requests the Licensee not to make.

Failure to comply with conditions or change in circumstances

26. The Licensee must notify Comcare in writing as soon as practicable of any event or likely event that is relevant to the application of the SRC Act to the Licensee, this may include but is not limited to:
- (a) the Licensee has not complied with, or is likely to fail to comply with, a condition of this licence; or
 - (b) any change that may impact on the Licensee's capacity to meet its liabilities under the SRC Act, including change to the Licensee's underlying financial position; or
 - (c) changes to its legal structure, ownership or control; or
 - (d) any significant change in its employee numbers or significant change in the risk profile of the work undertaken by its employees.

Information recording, retrieval and reporting requirements

27. The Licensee must keep all material brought into existence in connection with the Licensee's operations under this Licence and the SRC Act, including but not limited to, all files, correspondence, data, manuals, policies, records, reports, opinions, audits, receipts and any other information identified by the Commission as relevant to the operation of this Licence.
- 27A This information may be requested in writing by the Commission with at least 14 days' notice.
- 27B The Licensee is to ensure the information is maintained in a form accessible by the Commission or Comcare for a period of at least seven years.

Note: Comcare and the Commission will use information (including data) given to it by the Licensee under this condition for any authorised purposes. The uses that Comcare will generally make of this information (including data) are outlined in the Comcare and Self-Insured Licensee Information Protocol.

Specific conditions

28. The Licensee must notify Comcare when an asbestos-related claim is brought against the Licensee. On written request from the Commission, the Licensee must report to the Commission, within the timeframe specified in the request, on the status and progress of current asbestos-related claims against the Licensee and provide all other related information that is requested by the Commission.

Performance conditions

29. The Licensee must comply with the Performance Standards and Measures approved by the Commission from time to time.

Prudential conditions

Liability report

30. The Licensee must commission a written report (**Liability Report**) in respect of each Financial Year and calculated as at the end of that Financial Year.
31. The Liability Report must:
- (a) be prepared by a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Australia (**IAA**), or any body substituted thereof, with at least five years' post-qualification experience as an actuary in general insurance;
 - (b) be prepared by an actuary who is not an employee or a partner of the organisation which provides financial audit services to the Licensee or who in any way has a material financial dependence on the auditor;
 - (c) be prepared drawing on any available expert advice and substantially using IAA Professional Standard 302 "Valuations of General Insurance Claims", or any standard substituted thereof, as the basis of estimation, with any departure from this standard to be highlighted in the report;

- (d) be prepared using the Risk Free Rate in discounting the expected future claims payments of insurance liabilities;
- (e) be addressed by the actuary to the Commission; and
- (f) be provided by the Licensee to the Commission within 131 days of the end of the Financial Year to which it relates.

Note: If the actuary determines the Risk Free Rate using instruments other than Commonwealth Government Securities that relate to the term of the future claim liability cash flows of the Licensee, the actuary must justify the reason for doing so in the Liability Report.

32. The Liability Report must:

- (a) estimate the Outstanding Claim Liability of the Licensee to pay compensation and other amounts under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence as follows:
 - (i) contain a recommendation for the level of provisions in the Licensee's accounts which must be made to at least the net unbiased estimate of the mean (statistical expectation) of the Outstanding Claim Liability; and
 - (ii) contain a valuation of current Outstanding Claim Liability and the projected Outstanding Claim Liability in 12/18/24* months' time;

**Note: 12 months for Licensees in the 6th or more year of licence; 18 months for Licensees in the 4th-5th year of licence; 24 months for Licensees in the 1st-3rd year of licence;*

- (b) contain a breakdown of the current and non-current liability components of the Licensee's Outstanding Claim Liability as estimated in accordance with condition 32(a);
- (c) contain a recommendation of the maximum reinsurance policy retention amount (**Recommended Excess Amount**) referred to in the Reinsurance conditions;
- (d) make an assessment of the financial capacity of the Licensee to meet amounts, from the balance sheet, up to the Recommended Excess Amount;
- (e) describe the arrangements for compliance with the Reinsurance conditions and provide an assessment by the actuary of whether the arrangements are appropriate to meet the Licensee's obligation under condition 52; and
- (f) contain the calculations used to determine the required amount of the Guarantee pursuant to conditions 47 and 48.

33. The Commission may at its discretion submit a Liability Report to a peer review process.

34. After receiving a peer review assessment of a Liability Report, the Commission may by written notice to the Licensee require a Second Liability Report by an actuary approved by the Commission.

35. If any of the changes in circumstances outlined in condition 26(b), (c) or (d) occur, the Commission may, by written notice to the Licensee, require the Licensee to obtain an Updated Liability Report that is to be prepared in accordance with conditions 30 to 32.
36. The Commission may direct the date for provision of a Second Liability Report and/or an Updated Liability Report.
37. Unless the Commission directs otherwise, the Licensee must pay for a Second Liability Report and/or an Updated Liability Report.
38. If the Commission receives a Second Liability Report or an Updated Liability Report, it (or, where the Commission receives both a Second Liability Report and an Updated Liability Report, the most recent of these reports) replaces the original Liability Report and:
 - (a) references in this licence to the Liability Report are to be construed as references to the Second Liability Report or the Updated Liability Report (whichever is applicable); and
 - (b) references in this licence to the actuary who prepares the Liability Report are to be construed as references to the actuary who prepares the Second Liability Report or the Updated Liability Report (whichever is applicable).

Yearly Accounts

39. The Licensee must:
 - (a) lodge with the Commission a copy of:
 - (i) any report that it is required to prepare or obtain for a Financial Year under Division 1 of Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) within 131 days of the end of that Financial Year;
 - (ii) any periodic financial information regarding the affairs of the Licensee for a Financial Year that it is required to give to any financial market as defined in the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (for example, in respect of the Australian Stock Exchange this would be information that must be given under Listing Rule 4.3B) within 131 days of the end of that Financial Year. For the avoidance of doubt this condition does not require the Licensee to provide information that is released to the financial market pursuant to the Licensee's continuous disclosure obligations;
 - (iii) if the Licensee is not required to report in accordance with Division 1 of Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) because its parent company is required to report in accordance with Division 1 of Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), then the Licensee must provide any report that the parent company is required to prepare or obtain for a Financial Year under Division 1 of Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) within 131 days of the end of that Financial Year;
 - (iv) if the Licensee (or its parent company) is not required to report in accordance with Division 1 of Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and the parent

company is a company not subject to the laws of Australia then the Licensee's parent company must prepare a financial report and directors' report as if it was required to comply with Division 1 of Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), including having that report audited in accordance with that Part, and must give the report to the Commission within 131 days of the end of the Financial Year; and

- (b) include, and identify, in any report or information referred to in condition 39(a), provision for meeting the Licensee's Outstanding Claim Liability (current and non-current) under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence as at the end of the Financial Year to which the report of information relates.

40. The Licensee must ensure that:

- (a) the provision mentioned in condition 39(b) is consistent with the written evaluation in the Liability Report, of the Licensee's Outstanding Claim Liability (current and non-current) for the Financial Year; and
- (b) any apparent discrepancies in the provision mentioned in condition 39(b) and the written evaluation in the Liability Report of the Licensee's Outstanding Claim Liability (current and non-current) for the Financial Year are explained in the notes section of the financial report or information in which the provision mentioned in condition 39(b) is included and identified.

Guarantee

41. The Licensee must at all times have in place a Guarantee for the due discharge of its liability to pay compensation and other amounts under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence.

42. Subject to the exceptions in conditions 43 and 44, the Licensee must obtain a new Guarantee under condition 41 each Financial Year.

43. If the Commission determines that the Licensee is a low-risk licensee for a Financial Year, the Licensee is not required to obtain a new Guarantee under condition 41 that Financial Year unless:

- (a) the required Guarantee amount for the Licensee for that Financial Year (as calculated under conditions 47 and 48) increases by \$300,000* or more from the required Guarantee amount for the Licensee for the Financial Year in which it obtained its existing Guarantee under condition 41 (as calculated under conditions 47 and 48); or
- (b) 5 years have elapsed since the Licensee last obtained a new Guarantee under condition 41.

** Note: The \$300,000 value is subject to indexation (based on CPI) annually.*

44. The Licensee is not required to obtain a new Guarantee under condition 41 for a Financial Year if the required Guarantee amount for the Licensee for that Financial Year (as calculated under conditions 47 and 48) is less than or equal to the Guarantee amount of the Licensee's existing Guarantee under condition 41.

45. The Guarantee obtained under condition 41 must be:
- (a) in the form and subject to the terms agreed in writing by the Commission; and
 - (b) for an amount calculated by the actuary in accordance with the Guarantee conditions (conditions 41 to 51 inclusive) and specified in the Liability Report for that Financial Year; and
 - (c) obtained from a corporation that is authorised by APRA to carry on:
 - (i) banking business in Australia under the *Banking Act 1959* (Cth) and has an issuer credit rating of or equivalent to a Standard and Poor's AA- or better; or
 - (ii) insurance business in Australia under the *Insurance Act 1973* (Cth) and has an issuer credit rating of or equivalent to a Standard and Poor's AA- or better and a financial strength rating of or equivalent to a Standard and Poor's AA- or better.
46. The Licensee must provide the original of the Guarantee to the Commission within 170 days of the start of the first Financial Year to which the Guarantee relates.
47. The Guarantee must be for an amount calculated by the actuary as the greater of:
- (a) the 95th percentile of the Licensee's Outstanding Claim Liability under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence at the Balance Date and the addition of the Excess Amount; or
 - (b) the 95th percentile of the Licensee's projected Outstanding Claims Liability under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence in 12/18/24 months* time from the Balance Date and the addition of the Excess Amount.
- *Note: 12 months for Licensees in the 6th or more year of licence; 18 months for Licensees in the 4th-5th year of licence; 24 months for Licensees in the 1st-3rd year of licence.*
- Note: The liability calculations under condition 47 are to include an allowance for the cost of administering claims under this licence and be calculated net of reinsurance recoveries.*
48. In calculating the amount of the Guarantee, the Licensee must direct the actuary to:
- (a) calculate existing and projected estimates of the Licensee's Outstanding Claim Liability under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence to the 95th percentile and to include this result in the Liability Report; and
 - (b) base the calculation on a full statistical analysis of data, trends and variability and according to any relevant IAA standards and guidelines on liability valuation for general insurance.
49. If the Licensee obtained a Guarantee under condition 41, the Licensee may at any time provide to the Commission a new Guarantee obtained under condition 41 that, if prepared in accordance with conditions 45, 47 and 48, will replace the existing Guarantee obtained under condition 41.

50. If the Commission identifies a financial risk with respect to the suitability of the financial institution from which the Licensee has obtained its current Guarantee under condition 41 and requests, after consulting with the Licensee, that the Licensee obtain a new Guarantee under condition 41, the Licensee must:
- (a) comply with this request within 3 months or, if applicable, an alternative timeframe specified in the request; and
 - (b) ensure that the new Guarantee is prepared in accordance with conditions 45, 47 and 48.
51. If the guarantor under a Guarantee obtained by the Licensee under condition 41 discharges its financial obligation under that Guarantee by making payment to Comcare of its total liability or amounts which when aggregated equal its total liability, Comcare must return that Guarantee to the guarantor.

Reinsurance

52. The Licensee must maintain an appropriate level of reinsurance to limit its liability to pay compensation and other amounts under the SRC Act in accordance with the scope of this licence from an insurance company that is authorised by APRA to carry on insurance business under the *Insurance Act 1973* (Cth) (**Reinsurance Policy**).
53. The excess of loss amount applicable under the Reinsurance Policy for any single event (**Excess Amount**) must not, unless the Commission directs otherwise, be higher than the Recommended Excess Amount.
54. The Licensee must:
- (a) if an amended reinsurance policy or a reinsurance policy from a new provider is obtained under condition 52, provide a copy of that reinsurance policy to the actuary and the Commission within 130 days of the start of the first Financial Year to which that reinsurance policy relates;
 - (b) provide a copy of the current certificate of currency for the Reinsurance Policy to the Commission within 130 days of the start of the first Financial Year to which the certificate of currency relates;
 - (c) notify the Commission of any increases to the Excess Amount in the Reinsurance Policy; and
 - (d) only obtain a reinsurance policy under condition 52 with an excess of loss amount that exceeds the Recommended Excess Amount if the Commission provides prior approval.

Dated the 4th day of May 2022.

Peter J Richards

Chairperson

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission