



Building a better working world

# Independent Limited Assurance Statement to the Management and Directors of Telstra Corporation Limited

## Our Conclusion:

We were engaged by Telstra to undertake limited assurance (here after referred to as a 'review') over its Bigger Picture 2018 Sustainability Report and online data tables ('report'). Our review covered:

- ▶ Telstra's approach to identifying, prioritising and disclosing material topics; and
- ▶ Selected disclosures detailed in the table below.

Based on the work we performed, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that Telstra's approach to materiality was not consistent with the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) materiality principle and that the selected sustainability performance disclosures have not been prepared and presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the criteria defined below.

## What our review covered

We have designed a three year assurance strategy to align with Telstra's sustainability strategy, 'Thriving in a digital world'. We will review Telstra's 2020 sustainability targets over the period of 2018 to 2020.

For the year ended 30 June 2018 we reviewed Telstra's materiality process including the way Telstra identified material topics and the appropriate disclosure of these material topics in the report.

We also reviewed a selection of performance metrics, as shown in the table below:

Strategic pillar	Sub-section	Performance Disclosures
Responsible Business	Ethics and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of notifiable incidents</li> <li>• Number of requests from law enforcement agencies</li> </ul>
Digital Futures	Everyone connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Helped around one million vulnerable customers"</li> </ul>
Environmental solutions	Climate change and energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total greenhouse gas emissions – scope 1 and 2 (t.CO<sub>2</sub>e)</li> <li>• Total energy consumption (GJ)</li> <li>• Total greenhouse gas emissions – scope 3 (t.CO<sub>2</sub>e)</li> <li>• Emissions intensity (t.CO<sub>2</sub>e/PB)</li> <li>• Annualised emissions savings resulting from project initiatives in FY18 (t.CO<sub>2</sub>e/year)</li> </ul>
	Environment and resource efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total waste and waste recycled (t)</li> <li>• Total e-waste (t)</li> <li>• Recycling/reuse of mobile phones and accessories (t)</li> </ul>

## Criteria applied by Telstra

In preparing the materiality approach, Telstra applied the GRI principles for defining report content for materiality. In preparing the selected material topics and associated disclosures and performance metrics for assurance, Telstra applied criteria as detailed in the glossary of the Bigger Picture 2018 Sustainability Report available at: [www.telstra.com/sustainability/report/data](http://www.telstra.com/sustainability/report/data).

## Key responsibilities

### EY's responsibility and independence

Our responsibility was to express a limited assurance conclusion on Telstra's materiality process and selected performance metrics.

We were also responsible for maintaining our independence and confirm that we have met the independence requirements of the APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and have the required competencies and experience to conduct this assurance engagement.

### Telstra's responsibility

Telstra's management was responsible for selecting the Criteria, and preparing and fairly presenting the materiality process and selected material topics and associated disclosures in accordance with that Criteria. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, adequate records and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

## Our approach to conducting the review

We conducted this review in accordance with the International Standard for Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000), Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements (ASAE 3410) and the terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with Telstra.

## Summary of review procedures performed

- ▶ Conducted interviews with personnel to understand the business, reporting process and processes and systems for collecting and collating data
- ▶ Reviewed the approach for determining material topics which included a review of media coverage, peer reporting and documentation supporting the materiality process
- ▶ Reviewed evidence to support key disclosures within the material topics
- ▶ Undertook data analytics to check the reasonableness of the data supporting disclosures
- ▶ Conducted detailed testing of underlying source information on a sample basis to check completeness and accuracy of data
- ▶ Conducted tests of controls to confirm controls were working as expected
- ▶ Performed recalculations of performance metrics to confirm quantities stated were replicable
- ▶ Identified and tested assumptions supporting disclosures
- ▶ Reviewed the appropriateness of presentation of disclosures

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusions.

Ernst & Young  
Melbourne, Australia  
30 August 2018

## Limited Assurance

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

## Use of our Assurance Statement

We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this assurance report to any persons other than management and the Directors of Telstra, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our review included web-based information that was available via web links as of the date of this statement. We provide no assurance over changes to the content of this web-based information after the date of this assurance statement.