

CAMLA Young Lawyers

Challenges and Opportunities in the Telco Sector panel discussion

By CAMLA Young Lawyer Committee representative Amy Campbell (HWL Ebsworth)

An opposed merger. The next-generation of mobile networks rolling out. Huawei blocked. Shifting national security policies, powers and risks. The Young Lawyers' idea for the "Challenges and Opportunities in the Telco Sector" panel discussion was conceived against this backdrop.

The esteemed panellists - Cameron Cross (General Counsel, nbn), Thomas Jones (Partner, Bird & Bird), Simone Sant (Deputy General Counsel, Vodafone) and Martyn Taylor (Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright) - brought the topic to life on the evening of 14 August in front of a crowd of 76 attendees at Bird & Bird's offices.

The audience heard the leading panellists highlight the dynamic nature of the telecommunications sector, distil some of the complexity around current issues and offer their insights on developments and risks they anticipate in the short term and into the future.



The core areas discussed included:

- How 5G works, the extent to which it will be "transformational",

what impact 5G is likely to have on service providers and the legal issues that may arise.

- Implications of 5G on competition for the supply of existing telco services.
- Merger trends in the telco space.
- Policy reasons for the Huawei ban set against the extensive use of Huawei equipment in Europe.
- The current regulatory landscape and anticipated reforms following the federal government's review of metadata retention laws.



The Young Lawyers Committee again expresses our gratitude to the excellent panellists for sharing their time and insight, to the engaging moderators - our very own Eva Lu (Thomson Geer) and Christian Keogh (Webb Henderson) who organised the event with Katherine Sessions (Office of the eSafety Commissioner) and Amy Campbell (HWL Ebsworth), and to Bird & Bird for its continued hospitality and generosity.