



## **Draft Rapid Deployment Regulations 2026**

13 July 2026

## Why are ISPA and its members interested in this process?

- ISPA is a trade association representing the interests of internet access providers and related service providers. Members are predominantly ISPs using ECS licences but also members that deploy the networks over which ISPs provide services.
- ISPA has a particular interest in “open access” and has undertaken its own mapping initiatives to identify the location of fibre networks in SA and to highlight which of these are open access networks.
- Ultimately implementation of rapid deployment mechanisms and more efficient use of infrastructure provides a greater network base over which ISPA members can compete in providing innovative and affordable internet access services.

## Will the Draft Regulations expedite deployment?

- In ISPA's view the Draft Regulations are more likely to slow down deployment through imposing further obligations on licensees, particularly inserting consultation obligations that don't currently exist.
- ISPA's members highlighted confusion as to when obligations relating to access are meant to govern access to public land or private land.
- Post the Altech decision and licence conversion (circa 2010), regulations developed within the authorising ambit of section 21 of the ECA cannot address the major obstacles to the deployment of electronic communications facilities and networks identified by industry, most of which relate to interactions with municipalities and state-owned entities.
  - Cannot insert time periods and deeming provisions binding on municipalities
  - Cannot insert fee caps applicable to municipalities (and should not need to)
- ISPA has noted various initiatives under Operation Vulindlela and elsewhere to introduce reforms intended to address financial and capacity constraints restricting service delivery at local government level.
- ISPA requests ICASA to consider participating (or deepening its participation) in these processes and other intergovernmental fora to advance the cause of rapid deployment in the public interest.

## Rapid deployment vs GIS mapping

- ISPA requests that ICASA consider separating regulations relating to rapid deployment in terms of section 21 of the ECA from regulations relating to GIS mapping.
- GIS mapping should not be exclusively linked to rapid deployment and does not fall within the scope of section 21 of the ECA.
- Separating out these two issues should not impede or delay the current process. ICASA will have consulted on both issues, and the only difference is that each will have its own future process and instruments.

# Creating a useful GIS database of broadband infrastructure

- Strong support from members for the proposed database: benefits for evidence-based policy and regulation making are obvious, as is the benefit for industry.
- ISPA's experience with trying to map fibre networks in South Africa has made it clear that this is a complex exercise.
- ISPA requests that ICASA consider a phased approach to the development of the database.
  - Compliance: the vast majority of ECNS licensees will need assistance with developing the tools and processes needed to meet their network information reporting obligations. ICASA should plan and budget for compliance workshops targeting MSME compliance (and ISPA offers its assistance in this regard).
  - Scope of information required: in the absence of detail relating to the security of information submitted by licensees and clarity on access protocols, it is unreasonable to expect licensees to submit commercially sensitive information.
  - It may be useful for a first phase of implementation to require the submission of historical georeferenced data on passive physical infrastructure only (not including available space or capacity, which is commercially sensitive),
- ISPA members have reservations about being required to provide information on planned investments in network deployment
- ISPA supports the use of the Open Fibre Data Standard (OFDS), subject to its ability to map FTTH deployments
- Has ICASA considered the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act? Is ICASA participating in the process to finalise a National Cyber Strategy 2026-2030 or the operationalisation of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act?

# ISPA Internet Service Providers' Association

Any questions?



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