

3G Network Closure in Australia

*Learn what it means for your
Trimble solutions*

Introduction

Australia's Mobile Network

How surveying equipment will be affected

FAQ's

Our Solutions

Australia's Mobile Network



1987 to 2000 – 1G

The first 1G phone was released in Australia. Supporting real-time voice calls at speeds of 2.4Kbps, based on analogue signals.

1993 to 2016 – 2G

A digital network that introduced many features still used today such as encryption, internet access, SMS, roaming and caller ID.

2003 to 2024 – 3G

Introduction of UMTS technology allowing for faster data transfers, emails, better encryption & cloud services.

2011 to around 2034 – 4G

Initially more than double the speed of 3G, 4G is now approaching 20 times faster speeds and allowing for streaming.

2019 onwards – 5G

5G promises <1ms latency, seamless data transmissions and speeds up to 2.5Gbps

The timing of the 3G closure in Australia aligns with the closure of previous networks. The difference this time is there are so many more devices reliant on it.



Shutdown Dates



Telstra
June 30 2024



Optus
September 2024



Vodafone
December 2023

Unaffected Equipment - Total Stations

Trimble total stations will **NOT** be affected by the closure. Connections via Bluetooth or UHF radio will continue to work, an internet connection is not required for total station surveys.



Unaffected Equipment - Scanners

Trimble laser scanners will **NOT** be affected by the closure. Connections via wi-fi will continue to work, an internet connection is not required for laser scanning.



Equipment – GNSS



R12 – Internal 3G modem

The R12 may be affected if a SIM card is installed in the receiver. The SIM card can instead be installed into a 4G or 5G controller without the requirement to update the receiver.

R780 – No internal modem

Not affected by the closure



R2/R580 – No internal modem

Not affected by the closure

R750 – Internal 4G modem

Not affected by the closure



Affected Equipment – Data Collectors

TSC3 – Internal 3G modem



Released in 2011, the TSC3 has an internal 3G modem that won't be able to connect to the internet after the shutdown even with a SIM card. This will mostly affect GNSS surveys using VRS services or Trimble Connect data workflows (or other remote data transfer solutions). The shutdown does **not** affect the connection between the instrument and controller, just the downloading of position correction information and internet connectivity

The shutdown will **not** affect:

- Trimble Access field software running on the controller
- Radio connections to total stations or other equipment
- Bluetooth connections to other equipment

Affected Equipment – Data Collectors

YUMA 2 – Internal 3G modem



Released in 2012, the YUMA 2 has an internal 3G modem that won't be able to connect to the internet after the shutdown even with a SIM card. This will mostly affect GNSS surveys using VRS services or Trimble Connect data workflows (or other remote data transfer solutions). . The shutdown does **not** affect the connection between the instrument and controller, just the downloading of position correction information and internet connectivity.

The shutdown will **not** affect:

- Trimble Access field software running on the controller
- Radio connections to total stations or other equipment
- Bluetooth connections to other equipment

Affected Equipment – Data Collectors



TSC3 or YUMA2 or equivalent – Time to upgrade?

The TSC3 has had over 10 years at the forefront of the surveying industry in Australia.

It was designated for end-of-life in 2021 and now replacement parts are sparse or no-longer available. We still see them sacrificed for the survival of others.

Trimble Access field software on the TSC3 stops at Version 2017, there are over 6 years of feature updates and tools outside of the TSC3's capability.

In comparison, the TSC3 was released in the same year as:

- iPhone 4S
- Samsung Galaxy S2



4G Data Collectors



TSC5 & TSC7

Modern data collectors to get back into the latest technology:

- Android OS
- 4G internal modem
- Latest version of Trimble Access field software

4G Data Collectors



T100 & T7 Tablets

Modern data collectors to get back onto the latest technology:

- Android OS
- 4G internal modem
- Latest version of Trimble Access field software



5G Data Collectors



TDC6 Handheld

Modern data collectors to get back onto the latest technology:

- Releasing in 2024
- Android OS
- 5G internal modem
- Latest version of Trimble Access field software

FAQ's

Do I NEED to upgrade all my equipment?

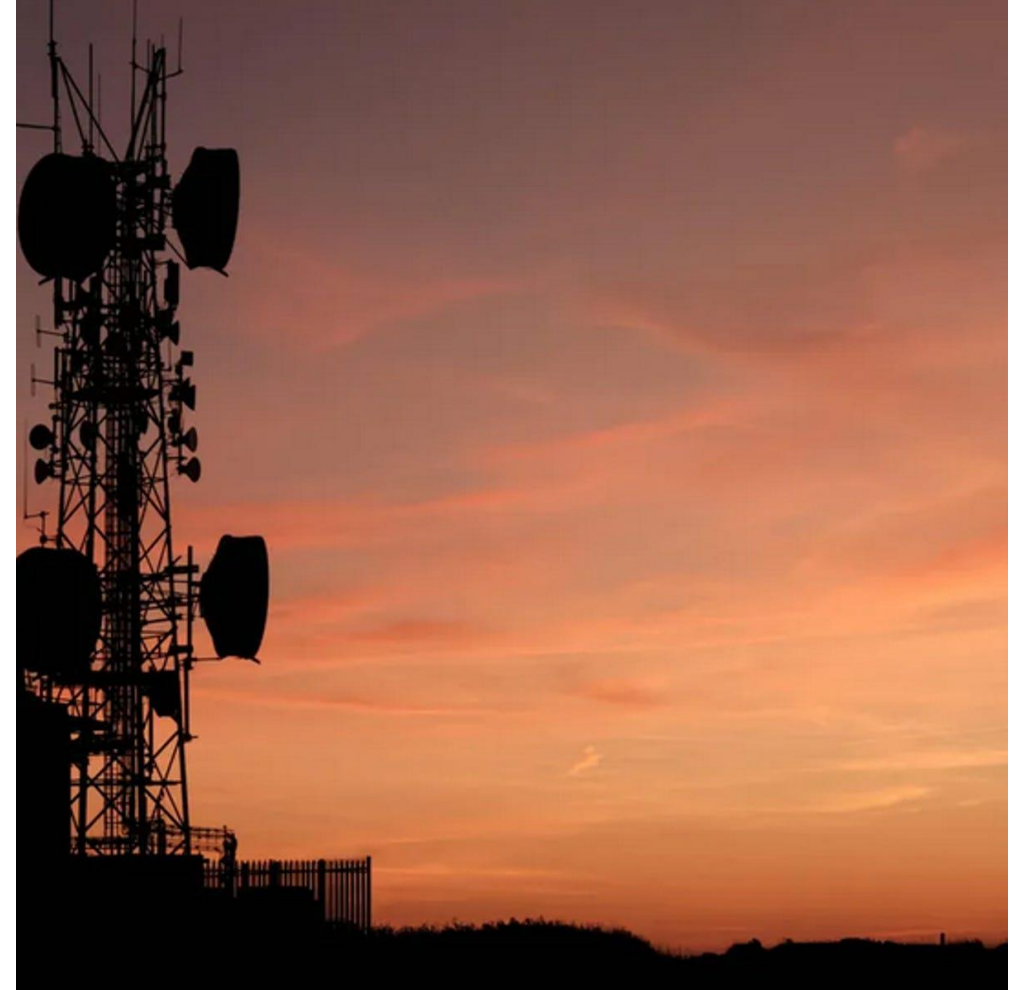
No, if there is no internet connection required for your equipment setup then it will continue to work as normal. If there is an internet connection required, the part with the 3G modem must be upgraded or the SIM moved to a compatible 4G device.

Can I hotspot the TSC3 to my phone?

Not likely, as the technology gap between mobile hotspot networks and older devices grows the compatibility reaches an end point. Security protocols on modern phones are too advanced for older controllers and will not connect. It may work with some model phones for the time being.

What happens to my current data plan if I upgrade?

Nothing, the SIM card is moved across and the new controller should connect. SIM sizing is the main issue, your provider may upgrade your SIM free of charge. You may need to confirm your SIM/plan is 4G/5G ready.



FAQ's

Can I skip 4G altogether?

Yes, if you upgrade to a 5G compatible device. You may need to confirm your SIM/plan is 5G ready.

If I don't use the internet on my 3G equipment, do I need to transition?

No, but software advancements may drive reconsideration. The older technology gets the less likely it can be repaired, so planning an equipment transition over a period will be less stressful than waiting for an incident that leaves you down on equipment.

What are the key benefits of transitioning?

- Latest field software with years of efficiency improvements that may help towards the upgrade costs.
- More powerful hardware and operating systems, compatibility with other modern devices and services (cloud storage)
- Future proof technology for at least the next decade
- Improved technical support – Teamviewer, software emulators, etc.



Legacy Controller (TSC3) Trade-Up

Trade in a legacy Trimble Controller against a current TSC5 or TSC7 to ensure you have no disruption from the 3G network shutdown. No new receiver required.

\$1,500 trade in of hardware for old unit + 1-year free Trimble Access & VRSNow Subscription.



Any Legacy or Competitive GNSS Rover Trade-Up



Trade in a legacy or 3rd party GNSS Rover Kit against a current industry leading R12i or R580 Rover Kit.

\$10,000 trade in for any 3rd party rover or legacy rover kit to a new Trimble R12i kit with TSC7 or TSC5 with EM120 radio module & 1-year free Trimble Access & VRSNow Subscription

\$7,000 trade in for any 3rd party rover or legacy rover kit to a new Trimble R580 kit with TSC7 or TSC5 with EM120 radio module & 1-year free Trimble Access & VRSNow Subscription.

Contact Us

W: upgsolutions.com

P: 1800 800 874

E: sales@upgsolutions.com

The TSC Continuum: 29 Year Legacy

