**AusNet Services redrafted Meter Asset Management Strategy to enable publication for consultation**

In light of the performance issues, elevated operating costs and impending obsolescence of the PolicyNet enabled WiMAX and 3G communications technologies, and after detailed consideration of a number of Options, AusNet Services adopted an AMI Strategy to undertake a staged replacement of the existing communications infrastructure. The Options assessment process was undertaken utilising a structured, whole of life framework and identified that a staged transition to an alternative communications infrastructure would provide the best asset management, end to end performance and economic outcomes while delivering customer benefits in an appropriate timeframe.

The staged replacement incorporates the following key steps:

* Stage 1: Secure and stabilise the existing WiMAX solution (2015 and 2016) to support the ~440,000 logically converted meters
* Stage 2: Deploy a mesh infill solution (2015 to 2016):
  + Implement a mesh communications backbone enabling coverage of 98% of the meter fleet. This step involves establishing and adapting IT infrastructure and applications to support a mesh based solution including the development of a new MMS
  + Deploy mesh communications modules for the remaining 270,000 meters (infill)
  + Deploy mesh communications modules for new connections and replacements
* Stage 3: Progressively replace obsolete PolicyNet enabled WiMAX communications infrastructure in an orderly and efficient manner