

# Help Sheet – Telecommunication Asset Types



Infrastructure Betterment Fund  
Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package

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## Introduction

You will be assessed on the information you provide. Please ensure the data you enter is correct and can be supported by evidence or an explanation of your assumptions where required and it is consistent with the information you provide in the other sections of the application. The answers to the economic assessment questions should be specific to the project, not the business/project as a whole.

## What are the subcategories of Telecommunications Asset?

There are five subcategories under the telecommunications asset type, including radio tower, cabling, relay stations that exclusively support telecommunications, electricity sub-stations that exclusively support telecommunications and other. Applicants must first choose a subcategory to answer the questions designed specifically for that sub-category. Any telecommunications asset other than radio, cabling, relay station or electricity sub-stations can be categorised under the 'other' option.

## What is the difference between 'with' and 'without betterment' questions?

The 'without betterment' scenario or the base case assumes building damaged assets to their previous state without any betterment, while the 'with betterment' scenario assumes rebuilding or fixing the damaged asset with a more resilient investment. The answers to these two sets of questions will feed the economic assessment model to evaluate and measure the economic impact attributable to the additional. For example, if replacing an asset to its previous state costs \$100,000 and betterment requires an additional investment of \$30,000 to a new total cost of \$130,000, the assessment will measure the impact arising from this additional \$30,000 investment.

## Is there any guidance in the application form to answer the questions?

There is a tip below each question in the form to help on what measures should be applied and inserted in the field. For example, if the question is related to the duration that an asset is unusable, the response should show the number of years, days, or hours, depending on the question. If the question asks about the estimated cost, the answer must be in dollar value.

## What does it mean by 'how long would the affected asset be closed in the identified ARGN disaster'?

This question would like to measure the difference in time lost due to a natural disaster. The affected asset could be out of action for a lesser time due to increased resiliency to natural disasters. Therefore, the answer to this question might be different under 'with' and 'without betterment'. In answering the question without betterment, input the worst-case experience from previous ARGN declared disasters as a guide. In answering the question under betterment, make your best estimate based on the improved design.

## How should I estimate the total cost to replace or repair the damaged asset?

The estimated total cost under the 'without betterment' scenario is the total cost to rebuild or fix the asset to current standards. It is like for like and without any improvement. In answering this question under 'with betterment,' input an estimated total cost to replace the damaged asset to be more resilient.

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### **How should I estimate the number of times the asset is required to be replaced or repaired?**

In answering this question without betterment, input the historical data to estimate the number of times the asset, like for like, would require to be replaced or repaired over the next 20 years. With betterment, input the best estimate of the number of times the asset would be repaired or replaced, based on the improved asset. The estimate may be different under 'with' and 'without betterment', due to the asset's increased resiliency after betterment.

### **How should I estimate the annual maintenance cost of the damaged asset?**

In answering this question without betterment, input the average annual historical cost that has been spent on maintaining the damaged asset. With betterment, input the best estimate based on the improved asset design.

### **What is the estimated lifespan of the asset under the two scenarios?**

This response must provide the estimated lifespan of the assets in years. The estimated life span might be different under 'with' and 'without betterment', due to the asset's increased resiliency after betterment.

### **How many people is expected to be exposed to the ARGN declared disaster?**

To answer this question, please provide an estimate of the average number of people that was exposed to the declared disaster. You may use historical data under 'without betterment' and provide an estimate or best guess under 'with betterment'. The expected estimate may be different than current usage due to the asset's improved resiliency after betterment.

### **What does the alternative mean?**

In answering this question, use historical data for how the inoperable state of the asset had impacted users to take an alternative to achieve the same outcome. For example, during an outage, an alternative connection, service or signal may be available that serves the same purpose as the inoperable asset. In answering the question, input the additional distance and time travelled to use the alternative.

### **What are the 'additional economic, social or environmental benefits of the asset, as a result of Betterment'?**

This question helps assess further benefits of rebuilding or repairing an improved version of the asset with betterment. It is necessary to identify the benefit attributable to betterment first and, if available, provide both evidence and a dollar valuation of that benefit. For example, a more resilient telecommunication asset may create a greater sense of community trust in telecommunication services, or the improved asset provides faster communication or takes up less space. It is important that the benefit reflects the result of betterment only, so in in this case, how much faster would communication be compared to the base case or how much less space does it require?