

## Illegal Boosters and Repeaters

### Description

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In rural, regional, and remote areas of Australia, mobile connectivity is often a challenge. While it might be tempting to boost your mobile signal, using illegal boosters and repeaters can cause serious issues for others and even put lives at risk. There are many legal options to get better coverage. Visit [here](#) to find out more.



## What are they and why does it matter?

### What are illegal mobile boosters and repeaters?

Illegal mobile boosters and repeaters are unauthorised devices, often bought online, that amplify mobile broadband signals without carrier approval. This can cause interference with network operations and violate telecommunications regulations.

### Why are they illegal?



In Australia, using or owning unlicensed mobile repeaters and boosters is illegal under the Radiocommunications Act. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) regulates these devices to prevent network interference. If you use an unlicensed device, you could face penalties of up to \$412,500 in fines or up to two years in prison.

It's also illegal to supply unlicensed devices, with fines of up to \$137,500. These penalties help protect Australia's mobile networks and ensure everyone can access essential services like emergency calls to 000.

## **How do they impact others?**

One of the most significant issues with illegal repeaters and boosters is their impact on surrounding mobile networks. When you use an unlicensed device, it can disrupt the mobile signals in your area, reducing the connectivity of your neighbours. This means that they might not be able to make calls, access the internet, or send important messages.

## **Many people are unaware**

Unfortunately, many people who purchase illegal repeaters and boosters are unaware that they are breaking the law. Often, they buy these devices from international sellers online, not realising the strict regulations in place in Australia.

However, ignorance of the law is not a defence, and the penalties are severe for those caught using or possessing these devices.

## **What to do if you suspect someone is using an illegal boosting device?**

If you are experiencing poor mobile connectivity, always make sure to use licensed devices that comply with Australian regulations. Contact your mobile provider for advice on improving your signal legally, or head to [ACMA's website](#) to see more information, including a list of legal repeaters.

If you become aware of someone using illegal equipment or see someone selling these devices online, report it to the ACMA's customer service centre at 1300 850 115.

## **Want to find out about legal options to boost signal?**

There are many ways to improve your mobile signal, from simple adjustments to more advanced solutions. To find out more about the best and legal ways to strengthen your signal, visit our dedicated page for detailed guidance and solutions.



## Need more information?

Call our hotline to chat with a team member and start a conversation. If we miss your call, we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

### Category

1. Resources

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