

New Software To Protect Critical Infrastructure

Australian businesses will be better prepared for natural or manmade disasters as a result of a new computer program, according to the Federal Government. The Critical Infrastructure Protection Modelling and Analysis program identifies any areas of vulnerability within Australia's critical infrastructure and gauges the flow-on effects if one part of it is compromised. "The CIPMA capability is a unique collaboration between government and industry, and is initially concentrating on four sectors: communications, energy, water, and banking and finance," Attorney General Phillip Ruddock says. The announcement means that these sectors can now 'task' the program to examine a scenario or potential disaster, and advise on the flow-on effects across the sectors. "These 'virtual insights' will feed into the decision-making processes of business and government and will contribute to more targeted and cost-effective policies," Ruddock says. "The success of CIPMA relies on the supply of data and information from the four business sectors and their willingness to participate is a testament to the relationship that has been built between government and industry," Ruddock adds. The Attorney General's Department leads the CIPMA initiative and works closely with technical development agency Geoscience Australia and the CSIRO.

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