

Wild Gravel 2026 Predicted Phone Coverage Map

Oct 6, 2026

Summary

Telstra is the only network that covers most of Wild Gravel 2026. It predicts no coverage on 6% of the Ultra 420, against 53% for both Optus and Vodafone.

This document maps three courses over each network's predicted outdoor mobile coverage: the Wild Gravel Ultra 420 (Fri 23 Oct), the 150 km Race & Fondo and the Untamed Half Marathon 21 km (both Sat 24 Oct).

- **Telstra:** dead zones are short (3.7 km at most) and sit in the Stirling Range. That stretch covers the last ~30 km of the Ultra, much of the 150 km and the back half of the 21 km.
- **Optus and Vodafone:** coverage is good only around Mount Barker, Kendenup, Cranbrook and Tambellup. The eastern half of the Ultra has an 80 km stretch with no coverage. The Untamed 21 km has almost no coverage at all.
- **Event planning:** in the Stirling Range, no network can be relied on. Riders and runners on Optus, Vodafone or providers that use their networks should expect long periods out of contact.

How to read the maps

Every map uses the same colour scale, so the networks can be compared directly. All three carriers grade predicted outdoor coverage on the same three levels.

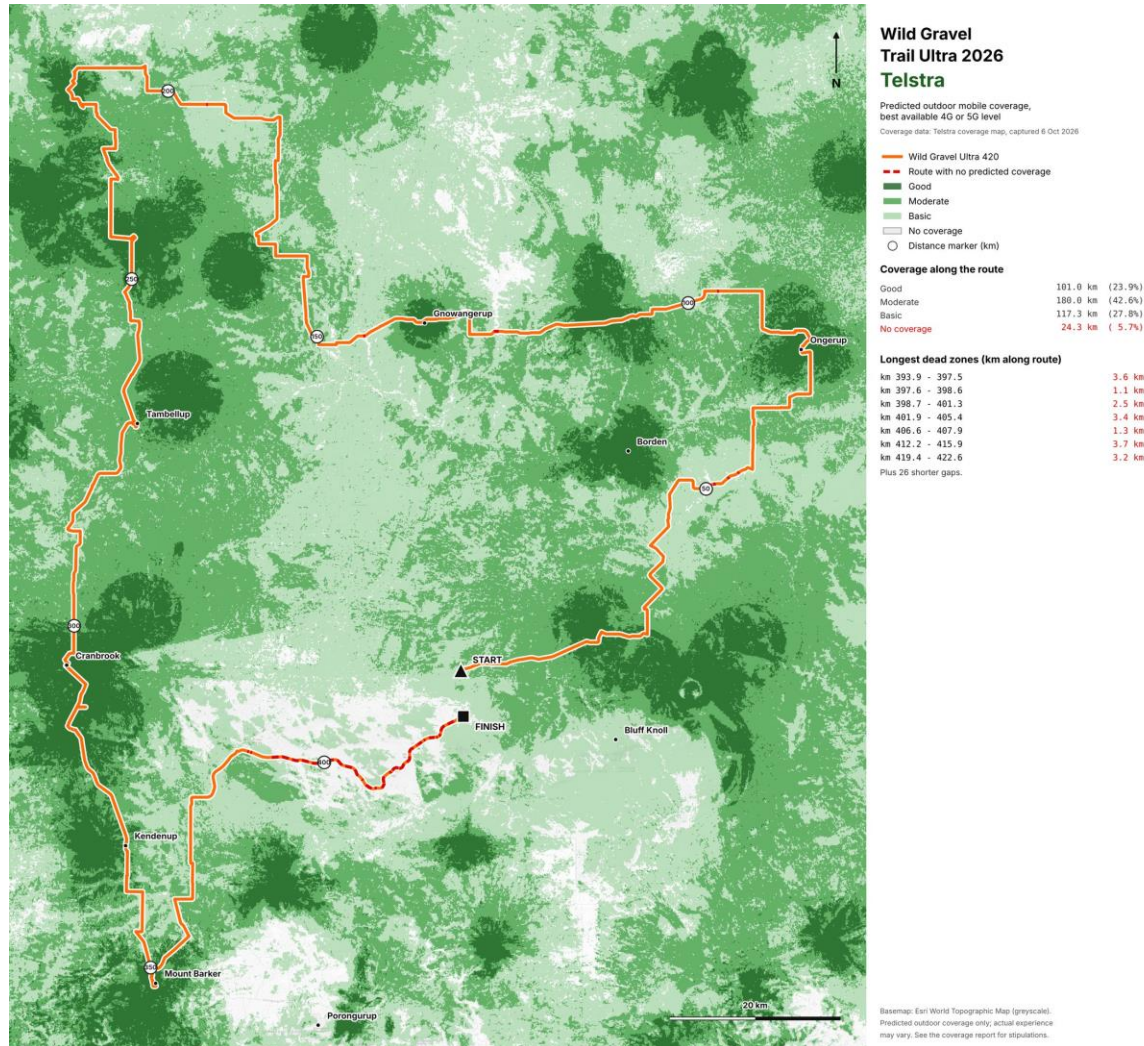
Colour	Level	What the carriers say it means
Dark green	Good	High-quality, seamless connectivity
Mid green	Moderate	Stable, with minimal disruptions
Light green	Basic	Adequate, with occasional disruptions
Pale grey (basemap shows through)	No coverage	No or very limited service; do not rely on it

- **Level shown:** the best level available on 4G or 5G at each spot. On these courses, every Telstra 5G area also has 4G at the same level, so a 4G-only phone gets the same coverage.
- **Routes:** the Ultra is orange with distance markers every 50 km. On the Saturday map, the 150 km is orange and the 21 km is purple.
- **Red dashes:** parts of a route with no predicted coverage. The panel beside each map gives kilometres at each level and the longest gaps.

Wild Gravel Ultra 420

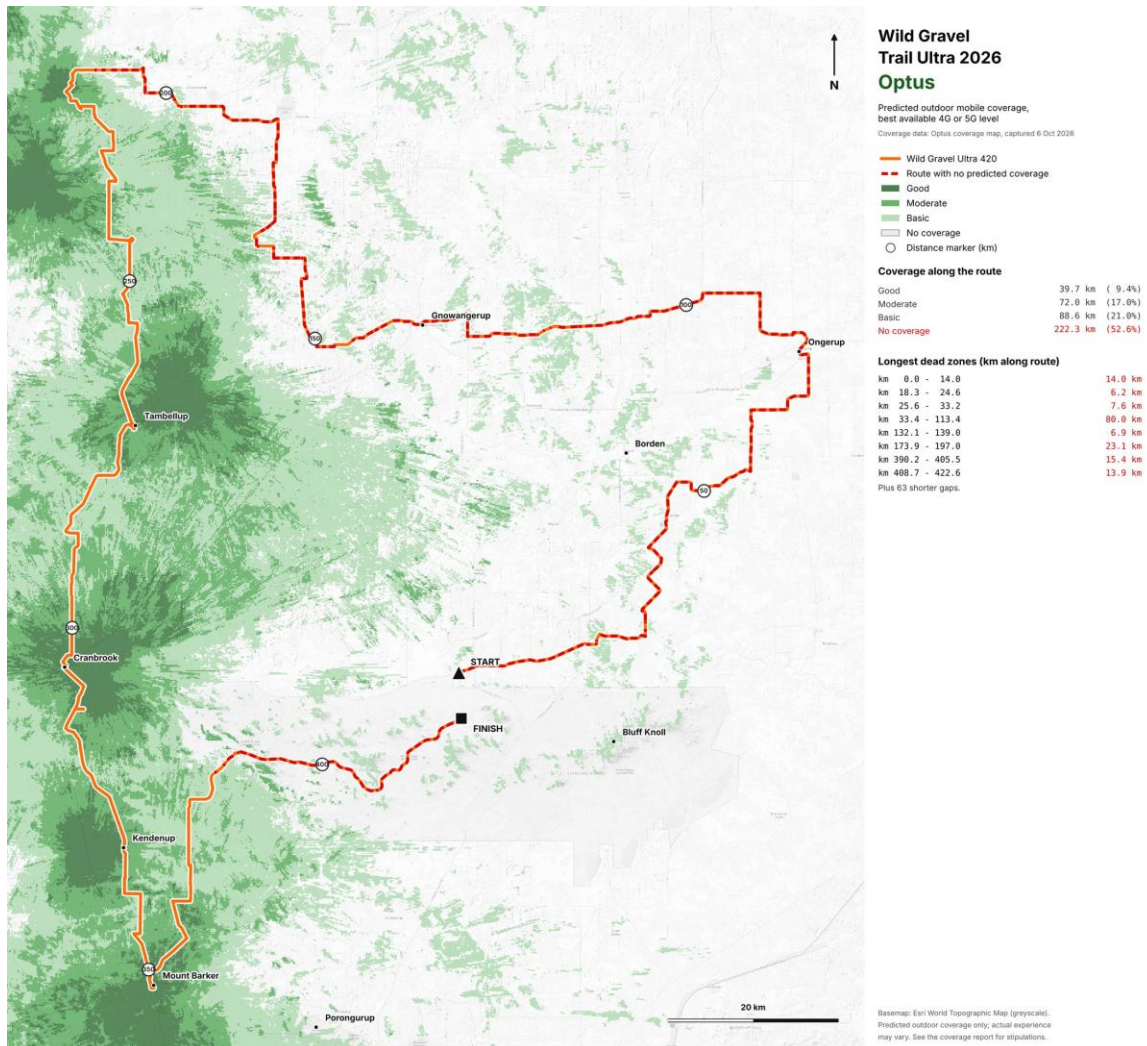
On Telstra, 24 km of the 423 km route has no predicted coverage. On Optus and Vodafone, it's about 222 km. The route was measured from the official GPX.

Telstra



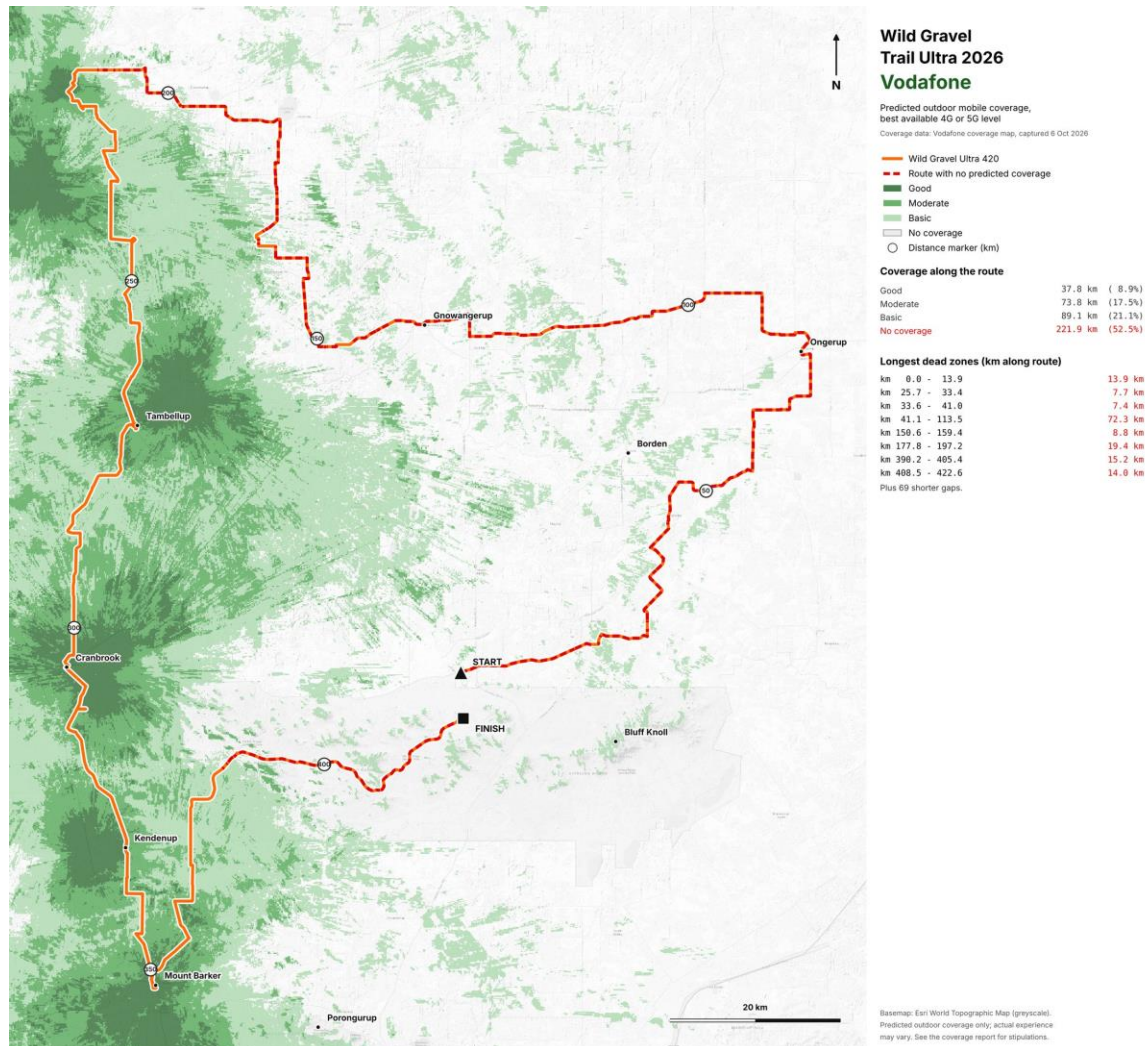
The 7 gaps of 1 km or more are all after km 390, through the Stirling Range. The longest is 3.7 km (km 412.2–415.9). Elsewhere, the route never loses coverage for more than about 0.5 km.

Optus



Coverage is solid only on the western leg, roughly km 200–390, via Tambellup, Cranbrook, Kendenup and Mount Barker. The longest gaps are km 33.4–113.4 (80 km), km 173.9–197.0 (23 km) and km 390.2–405.5 (15 km).

Vodafone

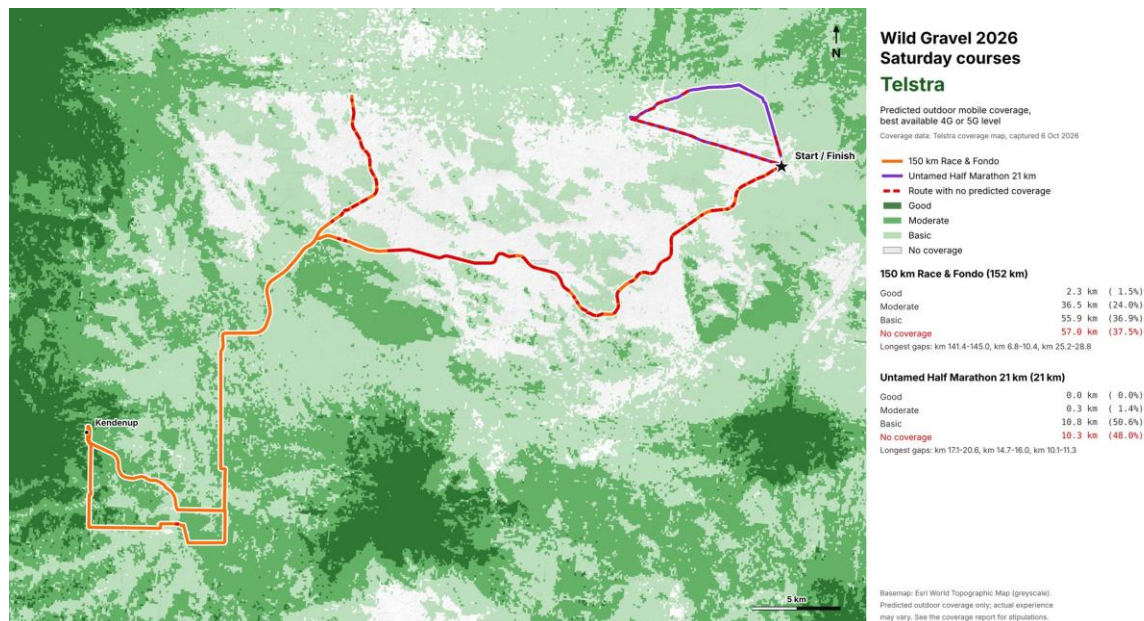


Vodafone's map includes the Optus network, so its coverage almost matches Optus. The longest gaps are km 41.1–113.5 (72 km), km 177.8–197.2 (19 km) and km 390.2–405.4 (15 km).

Saturday courses: 150 km Race & Fondo and Untamed Half Marathon 21 km

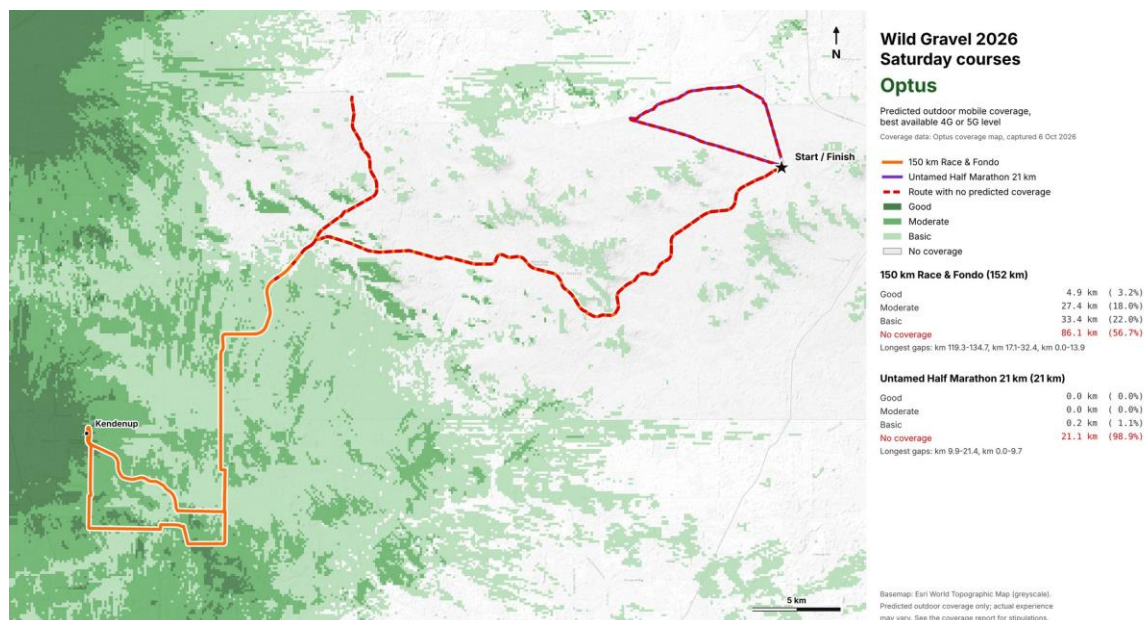
Both Saturday courses run through the Stirling Range dead zone, so even Telstra drops out often. The courses were measured from GPX files exported from the event's Strava routes.

Telstra



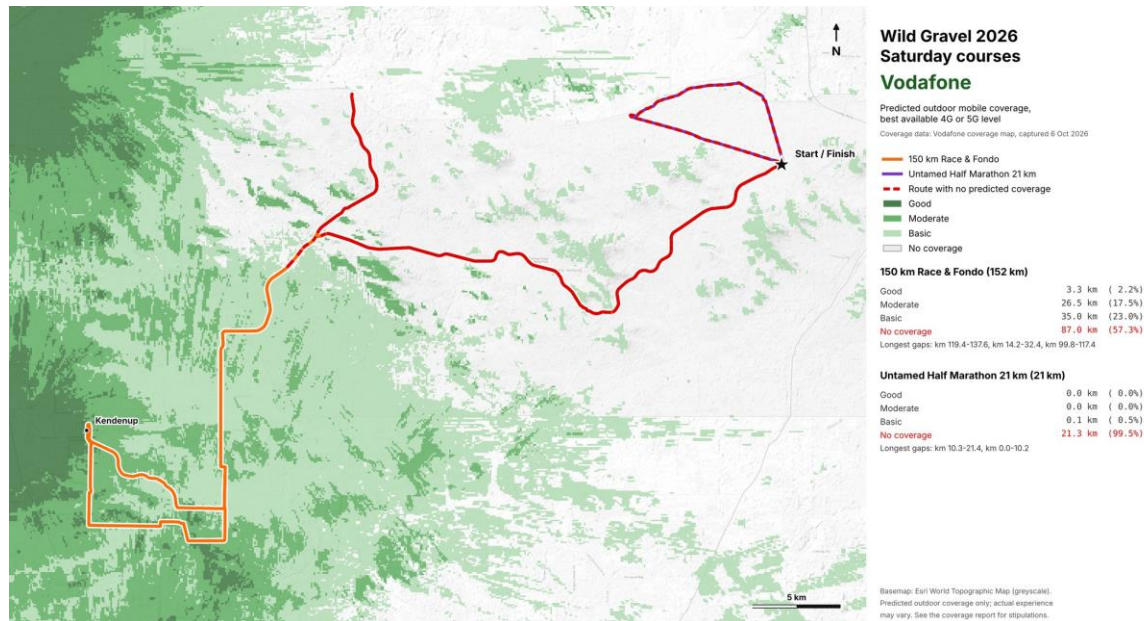
- **150 km:** 57 km with no coverage, spread over 18 gaps of 1 km or more. None is longer than 3.7 km, and most fall in the first ~29 km and after km 100.
- **Untamed 21 km:** 10.3 km with no coverage, mostly after km 10. The longest gap is 3.5 km (km 17.1–20.6), and the covered parts are mostly Basic.

Optus



- **150 km:** 86 km with no coverage. The longest gaps are about 15 km each (km 0–13.9, 17.1–32.4 and 119.3–134.7). Coverage is only around Kendenup and the western loop.
- **Untamed 21 km:** 21.1 of 21.4 km has no coverage.

Vodafone



- **150 km:** 87 km with no coverage. The longest gaps are about 18 km each (km 14.2–32.4, 99.8–117.4 and 119.4–137.6).
- **Untamed 21 km:** 21.3 of 21.4 km has no coverage.

Comparison across networks

Distance with no predicted coverage, as a share of each course, and the longest single gap.

Course (length)	Telstra	Optus	Vodafone
Ultra 420 (423 km)	24 km (6%), longest 3.7 km	222 km (53%), longest 80 km	222 km (53%), longest 72 km
150 km Race & Fondo (152 km)	57 km (38%), longest 3.7 km	86 km (57%), longest 15 km	87 km (57%), longest 18 km
Untamed Half Marathon (21 km)	10 km (48%), longest 3.5 km	21 km (99%), longest 11 km	21 km (99.5%), longest 11 km

Other brands run on these networks, so riders and runners should check which one their phone uses. For example, Boost runs on Telstra, and Amaysim and Coles Mobile run on Optus. In an emergency, 000 calls can connect over another carrier's network when your own has no signal, but that rarely helps here. Optus and Vodafone cover less than 1 km of Telstra's dead zones across all three courses.

Dates captured and references

All coverage data was captured on 6 October 2026 from each carrier's public online coverage map. Carriers update their maps as networks change, so recheck them closer to event day (23–24 October 2026).

Source	What was used	Captured
Telstra coverage map	5G & 4G outdoor coverage layer (vector tiles), retail view	6 Oct 2026
Optus coverage map	4G and 5G (non-standalone) layers, map data version 80	6 Oct 2026
Vodafone coverage checker	4G and 5G layers; this map includes Optus network coverage	6 Oct 2026
Wild Gravel Ultra 420 GPX	Route geometry, 423 km measured	6 Oct 2026
WG26 Wild Gravel 150 Ride v2 GPX (Strava route)	Route geometry, 152 km measured	6 Oct 2026
WG26 Untamed Half Marathon GPX (Strava route)	Route geometry, 21.4 km measured	6 Oct 2026
Wild Gravel – Choose Your Adventure	Course list and start dates	6 Oct 2026
Esri World Topographic Map	Greyscale basemap	6 Oct 2026

Method: each route was checked against each carrier's coverage layer at every GPS point (5,155 points on the Ultra, about 80 m apart). Distances are along the route. Telstra's levels come from shape data. Optus and Vodafone levels come from map images, accurate to about 60 m and 50 m respectively.

Stipulations

These maps are a planning guide, not a guarantee of service. Do not use them as the only basis for safety or emergency communications.

1. **Predicted, not measured.** The coverage comes from the carriers' own network models. Each carrier says its map is general guidance only and that actual experience may vary.
2. **Outdoors, at ground level, compatible device.** The predictions assume you are outside with a properly configured, compatible phone. Coverage is usually worse in a pocket or pack, in vehicles, under tree cover, and in valleys or gullies.
3. **Point in time.** The data was captured on 6 October 2026. Sites can be added, changed or taken offline, including temporary outages on event day.
4. **Levels are each carrier's own.** All three use Good, Moderate and Basic, but each models them independently. Treat the maps as directly comparable for whether there is coverage at all, and as indicative only for strength.
5. **4G and 5G combined.** Each map shows the better of a carrier's 4G and 5G level at each point. Telstra's 5G areas on these courses all have 4G as well. Optus and Vodafone 5G adds almost nothing here.

6. **Vodafone includes Optus.** Vodafone's public map shows Vodafone and Optus coverage together, reflecting their regional network-sharing arrangement. Check with Vodafone whether your plan and device can use it.
7. **3G is gone.** Telstra, Optus and Vodafone have all switched off 3G. Phones that only support 3G will not connect anywhere on these courses.
8. **Resolution and route accuracy.** Telstra levels come from shape data. Optus and Vodafone levels come from map images, accurate to about 50–60 m. Routes are the published GPX and Strava files as at 6 October 2026, so any later course change needs to be rechecked.
9. **Not affiliated.** This document was produced for Wild Gravel event planning. It is not endorsed by, and does not represent, Telstra, Optus or Vodafone. Coverage data and map content remain the property of their owners.