Lightspeed HOSTING

CASE STUDY

OnlyFacts moves from Heroku to Lightspeed Cloud

A Rails application and its data platform, now on a self-hosted application platform in Melbourne.

Production and staging on Coolify, in a private multi-tier network with nightly backups and push-to-deploy releases.

CUSTOMER
OnlyFacts

FROM
Heroku

TO
Lightspeed Cloud, Melbourne

Engineered for Speed. Built for Stability.

OnlyFacts

Executive summary

OnlyFacts runs a Ruby on Rails application with a large PostgreSQL data and visualisation database. Its Heroku plan offered neither full database permissions nor Australian hosting, and moving to Heroku's Sydney region would have cost around A$1,400 a month.

Lightspeed Hosting built OnlyFacts a self-hosted application platform on Lightspeed Cloud, live since Friday 2 October 2026. It costs A$338 a month, generates pages ten times faster than Heroku did, and keeps every database off the public internet.

COST

4×

Heroku in Australia would have cost four times as much.

SPEED

10×

faster page generation: 5.4 seconds down to 0.5.

SECURITY

0

databases exposed to the internet. On Heroku, Postgres accepted connections from anywhere.

> *Moving from a large overseas corporate to Lightspeed Hosting was the best decision we've made all year. Our platform is now lightning quick, and everything about the service is better, faster and, surprisingly, more cost-effective.*

Juliette O'Brien OAM, Co-Founder, OnlyFacts

Cost: A$338 a month on Lightspeed Cloud against around A$1,400 a month for Heroku in Sydney, both ex GST. Speed: homepage generation time (Rails x-runtime) before and after the move. Detail on pages 7 and 8.

The challenge

ABOUT ONLYFACTS

OnlyFacts is an Australian public data platform that delivers real-world data, starting with climate and energy, as ready-to-use feeds and visualisations. It was founded by Juliette O'Brien OAM and Anthony Macali OAM, who built some of Australia's first COVID-19 data trackers.

THE PLATFORM HAD TO PROVIDE

Australian hosting

Servers in Australia, close to Australian users, to reduce latency.

Full database control

Read and write permissions, plus a read-only role for AI agents.

Production and staging

Code and data pipelines applied to staging first, then production.

A modest budget

Well below the A$1,400 a month quoted for Heroku in Australia.

Simplified before the move

- Background worker and in-app jobs retired
- Recurring data updates moved to GitHub Actions
- Redis, New Relic and AWS S3 removed
- Unused configuration cleared

Fewer services to migrate, operate and pay for.

The solution

A self-hosted application platform on Lightspeed Cloud. Coolify keeps the push-to-deploy workflow OnlyFacts had on Heroku; Lightspeed provides the network, compute, storage and backups underneath.

COMPONENTS

Coolify manager
Orchestrator

Builds and releases each environment. VPN access only.

Application workers
Front-end web layer

Run the Rails containers and terminate TLS.

Load balancer
Public entry point

Forwards application traffic to the worker.

PostgreSQL server
Back-end database

Both environments' databases. No public address.

GitHub Actions runner
Data pipelines

Runs data updates inside the private network.

Bastion
Administrative access

SSH keys only. Tunnels to PostgreSQL.

DELIVERY

2
environments on one platform

0 min
downtime at cutover

3 weeks
from build start to go-live

30 days
of nightly database backups

First enquiry
13 August 2026

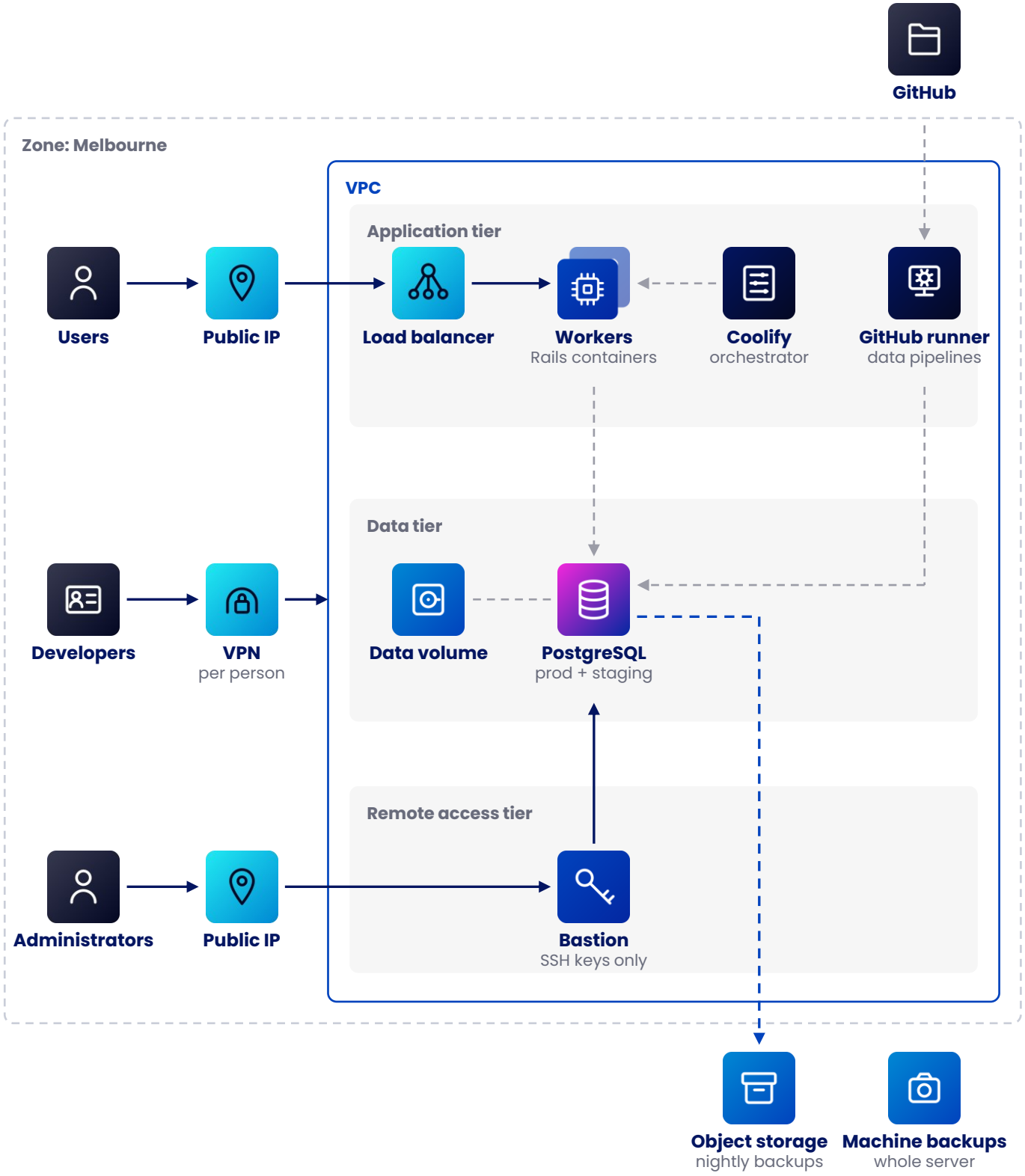
Proof of concept
21 August 2026

Architecture pack
10 September 2026

Live on Lightspeed
2 October 2026

Architecture

One private network in three tiers, with separate entry points for users, developers and administrators.



Traffic · Dependency · Backup

Each tier has its own network ACL. The Coolify dashboard and the database have no public address.

Running the platform

HOW CHANGES REACH PRODUCTION

Push to GitHub → Staging → **Production**

Code deploys automatically to each environment. Data pipelines follow the same order: staging first, then production.

Deploy and roll back

Coolify deploys on push. A release is rolled back by redeploying the previous version.

Backups

Every database is backed up nightly to object storage and kept for 30 days.

Restore

One script restores one database. A monthly test on staging proves every backup.

Secure access

The dashboard and database are reachable over the VPN only. The bastion accepts SSH keys only.

BACKUP SCHEDULE

What	When	Kept
All databases	Nightly	30 days
On-demand, before a change to production	Before data promotions and destructive migrations	90 days
Whole-server backups	Nightly	30 days
Restore test on staging	Monthly	

Documented for OnlyFacts

An architecture pack written for the developer, not for Lightspeed.

- Platform overview
- VPN setup for Mac and Windows
- Backup schedule
- Restore runbook
- Deploying code
- Rolling back a release

Results

COST

A$12,744

saved every year: A$4,056 against A$16,800 on Heroku.

SPEED

0.5 s

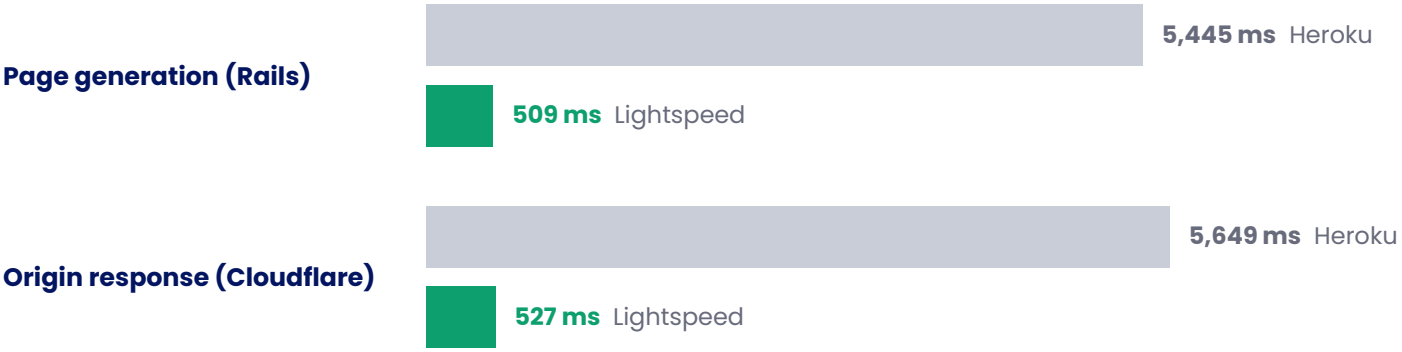
to generate the homepage, down from 5.4 seconds.

SECURITY

3 tiers

isolated network tiers, each with its own firewall rules.

HOMEPAGE SPEED, BEFORE AND AFTER



Before: measured on Heroku ahead of the migration. After: measured on Lightspeed Cloud on 23 October 2026, median of seven requests.

WHAT CHANGED

- **Faster for Australian users** — Servers in Melbourne, on infrastructure Lightspeed owns and operates.
- **Full database control** — Read and write access, with a read-only role for AI agents.
- **Same developer workflow** — Push to GitHub and Coolify deploys, as on Heroku.
- **Direct engineer access** — Support from the engineering team who built the platform.

> *The support and responsiveness have been exceptional. We feel more secure working with an Australian business with sovereign cloud infrastructure. We couldn't be happier or more grateful.*

Juliette O'Brien OAM, Co-Founder, OnlyFacts

Heroku vs Lightspeed

The same requirements, priced like for like. Lightspeed costs a quarter of the price and includes more.

	Heroku Sydney Private Space	¼ of the price Lightspeed Cloud Melbourne
Hosted in Australia	✓ Sydney	✓ Melbourne
Production and staging	✓	✓
Database memory	4 GB per database	16 GB dedicated server
Superuser database access	✗	✓
Root access to servers	✗	✓
Private network	✓ Private Space	✓ 3 tiers, VPN, bastion
Direct engineer access	✗	✓
Monthly cost	**~A$1,400**	**A$338**
Annual cost	**~A$16,800**	**A$4,056**

A$12,744 saved every year. Heroku would cost 4× as much.

Heroku: OnlyFacts' figure for its Sydney region, about US$1,000 a month (A$1,443 at the 1 October 2026 rate). Heroku list prices for private resources: Private-S dyno US$125 a month; Private-0 Postgres US$300 a month with 4 GB of memory. Lightspeed: the deployed OnlyFacts platform. All prices exclude GST.

Lightspeed HOSTING

ABOUT LIGHTSPEED HOSTING

Lightspeed Hosting delivers engineered Australian infrastructure with dependable performance and responsive human support. Lightspeed Cloud runs on infrastructure we own and operate in Melbourne, built for businesses, agencies and providers who value stability, clarity and long-term reliability.

Moving an application off Heroku?

Book a 20-minute call. We will look at your current platform, your databases and your deployment workflow, and show you what the same application looks like on Lightspeed Cloud.

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