

From: vivien
Sent: Friday, 9 December 2011 12:07 PM
To: secretariat@rtirc.gov.au
Subject: Submission re regional telecommunications

Sir/Madam

I am writing from Pindimar, a small community on the north side of Port Stephens, situated in the Hunter coastal area of NSW. While only an hour from the centre of Newcastle and two hours from Sydney the mobile reception is practically non-existent. Telstra gives the best cover but you have to get in the right spot to make it work. The internet speed can only be described as "slow" despite me paying for the so called fastest speed available. I'm told by my provider - Optus it's a factor of where I live.

I have made the sea/tree change and am trying to work from home and live in non-urban NSW, but without fast reliable communication I will probably have to return to a city to carry out my business. And don't get me started on the intermittent digital TV reception. When 2013 rolls around and the analogue is switched off, if I am still here my TV watching days will be over. At least 3-4 nights a week always around 8.30pm to whenever - the digital signal breaks up. I have contacted Bob Baldwin our local MP and he is very aware of the problem in the area but feels powerless to bring forward the proposed construction of a new tower. This apparently won't happen until after analogue has been turned off.

The Federal government should be encouraging people to populate regional areas to alleviate the stress on cities such as Sydney, however, until an improved communication network can be built this obviously can't happen.

Yours respectfully,

Vivien Beilby

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Phone home-

mob- not worth having unless I happen to be in the right spot.