

Dalarossie PC

Grazing enterprise

Trading as P.H.J & J.M Croft

[REDACTED]
Drumborg Vic 3304

Stuart & Anja Croft

Alex & Margaret Croft

To Whom It May Concern:

In recent years, running a farming / grazing business has been made a lot safer, efficient and family friendly by the advent of mobile phones. As a business we have benefited greatly through this on our Victorian properties, where I receive anything up to 20 phone calls a day. This enables a quick response to both business and family needs.

However, it is a source of frustration to us that our grazing properties in the Hatfield area have virtually no mobile phone coverage. As I spend extended periods in this area, I find a lot of calls to my mobile only get through sometimes up to a week later. In our modern business world this is not acceptable.

Furthermore, the only way to get reasonable service at all is to climb a windmill tower approximately 15 meters high near the homestead at night. This procedure presents many OH&S issues.

Because of the lack of mobile phone coverage, all my business calls either require a special trip back to the homestead during business hours, or else have to be made in the evening, which cuts into family time. Receiving calls is worse as I either have to wait around for someone to ring back, or return the call at another time. This is a very cumbersome way to do business in our era of high speed, demand driven, technology.

Of great concern also is the safety aspect of working alone in the Hatfield district. Often I, or others working for me, are undertaking difficult or dangerous work at distances of up to 30km from the homestead. This can often be at times of the year when the heat means that if something goes wrong, you don't have long to get help before the situation can become quite dire.

Whilst some may find the idea of travelling into the outback and being able to get away from the phone quite romantic, for us trying to run a business and trying to

attract young, energetic and technology savvy staff, this problem is a source of much frustration and concern and needs to be addressed as a matter of some priority.

Regards,

Stuart Croft

Manager