

From: Allan Lambell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2011 9:07 AM
To: secretariat@rtirc.gov.au
Subject: Regional Telecommunications Review Submission

Secretariat,

Following up from Community Meeting at Killcare LSC on Friday 9th December and on behalf of the Killcare/Wagstaffe Volunteer Rural Fire Services, we wish to reiterate the following concerns highlighted at the meeting:

1. Lack of mobile phone coverage
 - i. Safety issue to volunteers during extreme fire situation when radios not available due to the local terrain & item (iii),
 - ii. Mobile phone cannot be used for emergency SMS as too unreliable, therefore pagers have to be used & relied upon by local volunteers,
 - iii. Radio towers (repeaters) lost in extreme bushfires due to their locations, so therefore, limited hand held radio coverage restricted to line of sight and then mobile phone relied on for basic communications.
2. Lack of internet services/connections on regular bases with only basic (ADSL1) speeds at best
 - i. Logging of Fire Call reports have to be phoned in to Fire Control and then faxed as internet too unreliable,
 - ii. Lack of speed & bandwidth to download up-dated & new maps to assist with fire-fighting,
 - iii. Loss of on-line training.

With the NBN roll-out is there going to be any more mobile towers and emergency services radio towers installed to improve services and give 100% coverage all the time?

Regards,

Allan Lambell

Estimator, Star group