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Sent: Monday, 24 October 2011 11:13 AM
To: secretariat@rtirc.gov.au
Subject: Regional Telecommunications Review

Hello

This is not a formal Submission but comments and questions regarding the Review.

The Review appears to have a broad high level “digital economy” approach mainly focussed on business and I wonder how much attention will be apportioned to individuals and their access to the much promoted “digital economy”.

We have two mobile phones with Telstra but have no reception here at home even though there is line of sight to a prominent telecommunications tower a few hundred metres away. Our house is at Tyers a small town 10 km from Traralgon, a city with a population of about 18000 which is 150 km east of Melbourne. We use the mobile phones only when away from home and have also noted that reception is very patchy between Moe and Warragul – two towns between Traralgon and Melbourne.

I also have concerns about our fixed line – is there a philosophy extant to eliminate fixed lines?

I have heard publicity regarding the removal of the copper lines which currently provide the fixed line service.

I use fixed line telephone banking and Bpay to pay all my accounts using 1300 numbers and occasionally utilise 1800 numbers (respectively 30c a 0c per call). When these numbers are used on a mobile phone they are charged at the full rate. It would not be sensible to use Bpay using a mobile – it would cost me \$4 or \$5 and more to pay a \$40 bill or to carry out other banking activities. I have no desire or intention to use direct debit or internet banking.

Thanks for your time.

Graham Longmore
Tyers 24Oct2011