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RTIRC Secretariat (DBCDE)
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Secretariat,
please accept the following submission for the 2011-2011 Regional Telecommunications Review.

Areas of consideration:

Emergency calls from a satellite phone
Charges of calling a satellite phone from a landline or mobile phone
Satellite phone numbering
The Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme

Emergency calls from a satellite phone

Ideally all satellite phones should have access to the emergency service number 000. Whilst we take strong measures to ensure our clients are aware of the limitations of some networks who do not facilitate calls to the 000 service I do not believe this to be ideal.

Charges of calling a satellite phone from a landline or mobile

Australian terrestrial networks charge rates varying from the normal 'call to mobile' rates up to \$19.99 per minute to call satellite phones. Perhaps there may be large interconnect fees between carriers but this needs to be addressed. I do not believe that \$19.99 per minute call charges to anywhere in the world is acceptable with today's technology.

Numbering

A standardised numbering scheme would be ideal for consumers which could facilitate number portability between the various Carriers and Service Providers

The Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme

The Satellite Phone Subsidy Scheme carried out by the Australian Government is an excellent initiative. It is well utilised by those living in or travelling to parts of Australia with little or no terrestrial mobile coverage.

According to Telstra's website they cover 27% of Australia's land mass. Whilst 99% of the Australian population may have mobile phone coverage in the popular areas 73% of the country does not. I believe these figures speak for themselves.

Yours sincerely

Robert J Martin

Director

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