

From: Michael McCormack [REDACTED]
To: secretariat@rtirc.gov.au
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Subject: Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee

2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee
secretariat@rtirc.gov.au

9 December 2011

Dear Committee

I write to you regarding the telecommunications services in my electorate of Riverina in regional New South Wales.

There are a large number of areas across my electorate which receive intermittent mobile and internet coverage, and many that do not have access to any mobile coverage. Many constituents are concerned that the lack of mobile coverage means they are dependent on their landlines if emergency services are required. This is particularly concerning for those who reside on farms where travel back to a house to make this call could mean the difference between life and death.

This is particularly bad in the Mimosa, Winchendonvale, Rannock and Betric areas, where the residents have took it upon themselves to write a petition to raise awareness about the problem. The petition was presented to me, and I forwarded it onto the Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy.

Constituents are also frustrated with their limited access to internet services. Many are forced to pay for satellite internet if they want to have fast download rates and others are still using dial up. This is not ideal, and nor is it fair that these Australians are forced to have limited internet access due to where they reside.

The telecommunications companies are aware of these issues, and often help resolve issues for individuals on a case by case basis. However, there needs to be more infrastructure put in place for all residents in regional and remote Australia to ensure they can access fast internet and have mobile coverage like Australians who reside in the metropolitan areas.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCormack MP
Federal Member for Riverina

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