

The Western Division Councils of NSW represent the 11 Councils in the far west which cover 42% of NSW. The Division believes the Federal Government should continue to require telecommunication companies to provide a communication service to all Australians. The winding back or removal of the community services obligation as recommended by the Productivity Commission does not take into account the hundreds of small communities and farmers in the western region of NSW who continue to rely on landlines. Unfortunately there are still thousands of people on the new NBN Satellite Skymuster, without mobile phone service and with ageing radio landlines. It could mean that our only form of telephone communication will be voice over the internet on our Skymuster satellite internet. This is unreliable when the power is out or if the satellite drops out, which has been happening lately. The Division Councils, which represent more than 40,000 people in the outback believe the Federal Government should continue to provide an incentive so all Australians have access to reliable communications wherever they live. yours sincerely Ruth Fagan EO
Western Division Councils of NSW