

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the USO.

The USO could be much better allocated and used to the value of the country. Technology has advanced considerably and voice and data should be treated equally. Fixed Wireless technology is being used to provide last mile access globally for regional and rural areas very successfully, including in Australia. Fixed Wireless should not be confused with mobile broadband and Wi-Fi just because it is wireless. In fact it should be included in Fixed Line/Service discussions and planning. The USO should not be used to solely fund the building of new mobile infrastructure at the cost of important fixed services, but common infrastructure can be used. Regional and Rural WiSPs should be recognised as playing an VERY important role in the economy and in realising the delivery of broadband in their local communities. The NBN is great, but should be not overbuild regional and rural players, but built with them in mind. Build access fibre networks and let the WiSPs then build Microwave Access Networks and last mile Wireless Networks The ACMA should make more licensed spectrum available for Fixed Wireless to achieve this, although unlicensed 5.8GHz can also be used. WiSPs should be recognised as playing an important role, just as in NZ. The USO should be used to help fund the infrastructure build of regional and rural WiSPs. I look forward to the discussion continuing.