

My submission is brief. I live in Rural Queensland I depend on my phone line for the welfare of our family. This phone line allows access to a reliable, clear service to provide educational lessons to my child. This phone line is my life line to the outside world. If I was to only use my internet service for communication we would be in danger during times of power outages (which happens more than people realise) because my internet service requires a modem that needs to be powered by electricity, the same applies to a mobile phone. However if I have no power with my phone line I have access to help if my family needs it during these occurrences. Take away my phone and we move backwards not forward, you isolate the isolated. We may only be a small percentage of the population but we live in rural Australia producing a product that helps feed our nation and others and deserve to have services such as a phone line that provides for our needs to keep us safe. If you suggest eliminating this service then you will be putting people's lives in danger. Human safety should always be first and foremost in decision making. I am also interested in why you only have public hearings in areas on the coast, only Dubbo is west of the Great Divide. Rural, regional and remote Australia are the most vulnerable we need our phone lines.