

Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee

18 July 2016

Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

To whom it may concern,

RE: Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation Inquiry

I am writing on behalf of the Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC) regarding the review of the current Universal Service Obligation. The role of the REDC is to assist Tennant Creek to grow its economic base by undertaking a range of actions including but not limited to; identifying and prioritising local economic development opportunities and promoting economic and employment growth, and contributing to development and investment attraction in the region.

During the REDC meeting on 23 June 2016 the committee identified that regional and remote communities in the Barkly Region have different needs when it comes to telecommunications and asks that you consider the following:

- Phone boxes have been the life blood of communities, and still are, and should be maintained, especially in long term / seasonal / semi-permanent communities.
- From an Emergency Services and OHS perspective there should be mobile phone coverage across the Barkly Highway, the Victoria Highway and all the way up and down the Stuart Highway.
- Fixed line services, particularly public phone boxes, and mobile services should have equal focus of the USO in remote localities.
- Telecommunications users in regional and remote locations should be provided the same service quality as those living in cities.

In closing, we look forward to meeting with you during your regional visits to discuss these points in more detail.

Kind regards,

Greg Marlow
Chairman – Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee

Website: www.regionaldevelopment.nt.gov.au

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