

The launch of the Skymuster satellite has provided a somewhat better internet service for people in rural and remote areas that have no other access to the internet. Even so, the Skymuster satellite installation for us has not been totally reliable, with several outages and connection problems since its installation. If we were to rely on VOIP services to provide our telephony we would be most disadvantaged and put in a fairly precarious position should an emergency or accident happen. If the internet goes down, or the power goes out and there is no landline then there is no contact with the outside world. Many of us also conduct our businesses from home and need a reliable telephone service. If the USO was to become obsolete and no fixed phone service was available to us we would be totally disadvantaged. There is no mobile coverage, like most of rural and remote Australia. It is vital that fixed phone services remain in areas where there is no mobile coverage and the USO be maintained to provide guaranteed repairs, to protect the wellbeing and businesses of the people living in areas that are not serviced by a mobile network.