

339-17

20 January 2017

Mr Paul Lindwall
Commissioner
Australian Productivity Commission

Dear Paul,

RE: Telecommunications Universal Service Obligations Productivity Commission Draft Report.

Wimmera Development Association (WDA) is the Wimmera Southern Mallee region's peak sustainable development body, covering the municipalities of Horsham Rural City Council, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack Shires.

The Association's role is to work with the community and government(s) to attract new investment, further develop existing business and promote the Wimmera's sustainable development opportunities, both within and outside the region.

WDA fully supports the recommendations with in the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligations Productivity Commission Draft Report. In particular WDA strongly agrees that areas are prioritised for funding based on community and industry input – rather than on nomination from Members of Parliament, which will assist with consistent connection and increased efficiencies for industry, education and emergency management for regional areas.

WDA also encourages the new Universal Service Obligations to include Mobile Roaming in regional areas. Providers would utilise existing towers to giving consistent mobile and broadband access to users of multiple providers through shared services.

Sincerely

Ralph Kenyon
Executive Director