

Submission for increased mobile coverage + Internet

As a small business owner and resident in an area that has no phone service for a radius of approx. 30km, everyday tasks are limited significantly.

The risks of farm life are generally significant, however these are exacerbated when living in areas of limited or no phone service. On many occasions, there have been situations of emergencies on the farm when help has been delayed due to no access to mobile service.

The efficiency of farmers is also significantly decreased as all phone calls need to be made via a landline and cannot be made 'on the go'.

Running a business with no phone service is challenging and frustrating, as I often need to drive to an area of phone service to use my data for Internet and be available to answer calls and text messages from clients.

As a part of the younger generation, I feel that the future of Australia lies in the development of accessible, cheap and plentiful Internet. Any government activities in this area should be directed towards developing equality between the city and country in cost and availability of communications technology.

Unlisted broadband at a reasonable price has become a minimum requirement for work, study, business and daily life and people living in rural and remote parts of Australia should not be the exception to this rule.

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