

# Mark Coulton MP

Member for Parkes | Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Water Resources and Conservation

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The Committee Manager  
Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

## Submission

### Transforming Life Outside Cities: the Potential of Broadband Services

As the Federal Member for Parkes I welcome the opportunity to express my views on Broadband services in regional areas and also to represent the people of the Parkes Electorate in highlighting the continuing need to improve telecommunications in rural and regional New South Wales (NSW).

The Parkes Electorate covers over 100,000 sq km in NSW and after the next federal election; it will grow to 250,000 sq km. The electorate will cover approximately 40% of NSW, from the Queensland border to Mudgee and Lake Cargelligo in the South, from Bourke and Cobar in the West to Bingara and Coolah in the East.

Telecommunications and access to adequate telecommunications in the Parkes electorate is a major concern to my constituents. On average my office would receive at least three complaints per week of poor mobile service, poor internet service, poor customer service by the service providers and even poor landline connections that are unreliable and out-dated.

Throughout the electorate there are several areas that have persistent and constant telecommunications problems such as Goolma, Botobolar and Mungindi to name a few. Poor wireless internet services in East Dubbo leave many people without internet access or access that is extremely slow. I feel that this is not satisfactory and a national roll out of broadband should commence where services are below acceptable standards.

As the population of Australia is estimated to rise by 60% by the year 2050, Government's need to ensure that efficient infrastructure in health, education, transport and telecommunications is in place to make this population rise sustainable especially as more people move into regional areas.

Although health, education and transport infrastructure are incredibly important, I believe that with sound investment into telecommunications in regional areas, improvements in health, education and transport would all follow as a result. By improving telecommunications infrastructure in regional and rural NSW, we can ensure growth and prosperity.



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The current telecommunications challenges individuals and businesses in regional and rural NSW face is access and service delivery. Internet speeds and network reception are all debilitating factors which effect many businesses in the electorate on a daily basis. Simple transactions can take several minutes and access to emails can be limited; making trading hard and the inability for many businesses to compete with their metropolitan opponents.

Schools, health care services and small businesses could all work to deliver their services more effectively and efficiently with broadband. Existing businesses could create better business opportunities and be able to be competitive with their city counterparts and there would also be a greater ability to attract new businesses resulting in new jobs and growth to these areas.

There needs to be a willingness and proper plan in place by Government s to invest in the telecommunications services of regional and rural NSW and the whole of Australia. The people in my electorate need to see a detailed plan on the delivery of broadband and have a clear understanding of what to expect as they are becoming somewhat cynical about prospects of receiving improved telecommunications. The growth of regional and rural NSW really does depend on the action taken to improve telecommunications and broadband services.

I thank you for this opportunity to represent the people of the Parkes electorate and I look forward to the outcomes from this inquiry of the Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities.

Kind Regards,



Mark Coulton MP  
Federal Member for Parkes

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