

Draft Submission from Mr Andrew Woodhead

Mr Andrew Woodhead rang me on 1 February after seeing the Committee's advertisement in *The Land*. The following is a summary of his concerns:

Mr Woodhead lives on a rural property in the Tingha district between Guyra and Invernell in the Northern Tablelands.

He cannot receive mobile phone services as his property is situated in what Telstra call a "dead zone".

He used to have reasonable mobile phone service under the discontinued cdma system. He considered satellite phones to be unaffordable as his family is on a low income.

He considered the lack of mobile services to be a real safety risk on a rural property as there was no way to call for help in an emergency when away from a landline.

He noted that their landline services were also comparatively expensive because most calls made were long distance or to mobile phones a long distance away.

Mr Woodhead cannot receive broadband services except through a satellite. He received the Federal Government's satellite subsidy to establish a service but this is becoming unaffordable because Optus has raised its prices recently. He considered that they preferred to meet the needs of small businesses than private subscribers.

His internet service is extremely slow. The copper phone lines are deteriorating and there is no ADSL service available.

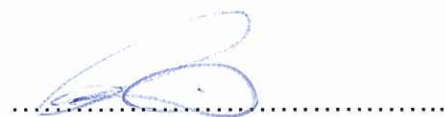
He has approached Telstra about installing wireless broadband but the equipment did not work as it could not get a signal.

One of his children has recently started high school and it is becoming extremely difficult to complete homework without internet access. His younger children who attend school in Guyra regularly do their homework at school where internet services are available.

Vicki Buchbach
1 February 2010

If you agree with this summary, please sign below. Please feel free to add any further information.

I certify that this is an accurate reflection of my concerns.



Andrew Woodhead