

Thursday Feb 18th

The Manager,
Standing Committee Broadband in Rural & Regional Communities
C/- Parliament House
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I heard an interview this morning on ABC WAGGA about the above and would like to make this Submission.

Although I live in Victoria (Tintaldra)-right on the the Border in fact-I am in the NSW phone area 02 and listen to NSW radio – the only reception I can get.

I have no mobile phone service and no land based TV reception and no Broadband and its not as though I live in a particularly remote location-just 135 klms to Albury-85 klms to Holbrook and our closest town (Corryong) is just 24 klms away. My problem is the local topography – lots of hills-which preclude line of sight reception. I do receive a satelite signal from the Aurora remote area service Television Network although strangely the programs are in analogue,despite a digital signal!

I have written to Senator Conroy's Office asking about the future of this network and the likely-hood of Satellite facilities for phone and broadband in the future – but as yet have not received a reply.I actually was signed-up for a satellite broadband scheme that the Federal Govt. was promoting early last year, but the Installer was unable to meet the deadline (June 30th) and the installation did not proceed. Of course after the deadline the Installer was happy to charge a Fee for the installation. I'm hoping that the scheme may be re-introduced- it's the only way –as a Pensioner- that I can afford to get on-line

My big concern is that the only communication I have is with a copper-wire phone (and that will never be upgraded and will likely not be replaced when it fails,and radio reception through a locally serviced and resourced Transmitter which I understand is somehow funded by the Tumbarumba Shire Council.

I moved here with my wife ten years ago now – the classic "tree change"- and it came as a shock at the time that outside of major cities and towns the state of Radio/Television and Phone/Mobile is so primitive as to be unbelievable- and nothing much has changed in ten years. Eventually, with age, we will be unable to continue living here if our communications with society do not dramatically improve.

Thank you for this opportunity,

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