



ABN 81 011 241 552

# Upper Lachlan Shire Council

All correspondence addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 10, Crookwell NSW 2583

**Crookwell Office:** 44 Spring Street, Crookwell NSW 2583

p: 02 4830 1000 | f: 02 4832 2066 | e: council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au | www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au

**Gunning Office:** 123 Yass Street, Gunning NSW 2581

p: 02 4845 4100 | f: 02 4845 1426 | e: council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

**Taralga Office:** Taralga Community Service Centre, Orchard Street, Taralga NSW 2580

p: 02 4840 2099 | f: 4840 2296 | e: taralgacsc@ceinternet.com.au

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009

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

**ATTENTION: Ms Vicki Buchbach**

**RE: Telecommunications Availability in Rural and Regional Communities**

Upper Lachlan is a predominantly rural area and in keeping with this, most businesses registered in the Shire are agricultural, however, most residents work - like their urban counterparts - in the broadly defined services sector which includes retail businesses, other private services (legal, financial, personal service) and government (education, welfare, health, transport). Even as Upper Lachlan's economy becomes more dependent on services, they lag behind urban economies in their ability to compete where internet speed is increasingly important. Reliable telecommunications networks are essential.

For public and private enterprises alike, effective networks can lead to improved quality, productivity and efficiency and help to reduce costs. A good telecommunications system can also help to foster a sense of community and cultural identity.

Upper Lachlan Shire's telecommunications ranges from good to very poor.

Most of the Upper Lachlan Shire is without mobile phone coverage except the main centres and internet access is very poor in the outlying reaches of the Shire. Television reception is also poor to non-existent right across the Shire because Upper Lachlan is on the outer edge of the transmitting areas. Our television coverage currently comes from Orange, Canberra and Wagga Wagga.

An adequate telecommunications infrastructure is essential for the economic and social well-being, growth and development of rural communities into the 21st century. The growing emphasis on the services industries and, in particular, the greater information content of goods and services has increased requirements for quality telecommunications. In view of the importance of rural business to Australia's national welfare, it is vital that rural communities have adequate access to quality telecommunications services.

Any improvements in Upper Lachlan Shire's telecommunications would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Proudman  
Economic Development Officer