

'Cooyong', 125 Noola Road, Bogee via Rylstone NSW 2849
T: (02) 6379 7698 M: 0419 441 280 E: gregsky@tpg.com.au

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

Dear Sir,

I am responding to the notice in the SMH on 30/1/10.

My wife and I live in retirement on a small farm in the Capertee Valley, midway between Lithgow and Mudgee. While broadband connection for internet via satellite is excellent, there is no reliable mobile telephone reception to my farm or within the valley generally.

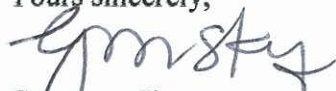
I have previously written to complain about the unsatisfactory mobile phone service and have received the following written responses: from Telstra dated 21/11/08, from the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman dated 10/12/08 and from the Australian Government's Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy dated 12/12/08, all of them unhelpful. My final letter to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman, dated 24/12/08, remains unanswered. Copies of these letters are available upon request.

Clearly all my attempts to obtain satisfactory and serviceable mobile phone reception have failed. I have a Telstra/ ZTE HSDPA 'Discovery 2' phone "recommended for rural handheld coverage".

I am often living alone on the property while my wife is in Sydney. I need to be able to receive and make calls while I am either walking, in my vehicle or on a tractor. Should I have an accident while on my own, I am presently unable to call for help if unable to reach the residence's landline. The suggested use of a high-gain (vehicle) antenna &/or a satellite phone are both expensive and impracticable.

Telstra must provide a sufficient number of transmitters to ensure hand-held 'Next G' reception is available on all main roads in, and to all residents of, the Capertee Valley (in Committee Member Mr G Martin's electorate) and throughout NSW.

Yours sincerely,



Gregory Sky
1 February 2010