GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL

24th September 2015

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Gwydir Shire Council notes that your Committee is undertaking an inquiry that is reviewing:

- improvements in the efficiency of agricultural practices due to new technology, and the scope for further improvements;

- emerging technology relevant to the agricultural sector, in areas including but not limited to telecommunications, remote monitoring and drones, plant genomics, and agricultural chemicals; and

- barriers to the adoption of emerging technology.

This submission addresses an issue that creates barriers for the agricultural sector.

A significant proportion of this Shire is without reliable and efficient mobile phone coverage, usually the most productive areas. In particular the inability to directly connect farm machinery to the internet across the Shire reduces the ability of agricultural producers to access global positioning technologies, remote monitoring and other services that would value add onto agricultural production.

This Council was certainly encouraged to hear that the Federal Government has agreed to additional funds being made available to address the mobile black spot issue that exists, not only in Gwydir but across the agricultural area of Australia in general.

Access to a reliable mobile network will create the opportunity for far greater use of emerging technologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon your Committee's Terms of Reference.

Yours faithfully

Max Eastcott
General Manager

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