Inquiry into co-investment in multi-carrier regional mobile infrastructure Submission 2

From: Paul Ribinsky

To: Committee, Communications (REPS)

Subject: Regional mobile infrastructure submission - Limestone Creek 4701

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My family has lived at Limestone Creek 4701 for about 25 years. Some computer systems recognise our suburb as Ironpot.

We are between Rockhampton and Yeppoon and the community around us is being developed.

Our house is about 10km from the Central QLD University in Rockhampton and we are approx. 25km from Yeppoon so very close to both significantly populated areas.

Mobile phone reception and internet options in our area are very poor.

Our only NBN option to date is sky muster satellite. The limited data plans are inadequate for a family. The plans are relatively expensive relative to unrestricted main stream NBN offerings. The service is unreliable during particular weather conditions and does not work at all during rain or heavy cloud. Also, latency/lag is a major issue for some applications. A family around the corner has invested in starlink as their internet option. Not everyone can afford this option.

Our mobile service reception is poor. We use both telstra and optus networks for mobile phone communications and internet access to supplement the inadequate satellite internet offering. Signals regularly during any hour of the day switch between 4G and 3G and back. If on a call or online, often the call will drop out and the internet connection will be lost. At best, low quality reception and freezing occurs. Often when the signal drops to 3G and remains there, calls are not possible until you find a 4G signal by walking around in or outside the house. It can take 10 minutes to resume service. Both telstra and optus reliability/coverage are poor.

The area has pockets of new development so the population is increasing. Others in the area also have the same problems with communications.

We are so close to Rockhampton and pretty close to Yeppoon so it seems odd that we have only satellite NBN as the NBN option and also the quality of our mobile communication services is so poor.

I am not sure if this submission makes any difference to anything but here it is in any case.

Feel free to email or call me if any questions.

Paul Ribinsky