

Submission to Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) Bill 2025

I wish to add my voice to the many in rural and regional Australia urging the expeditious passing of this legislation by the Parliament.

I share with some the disappointment of the delayed date of implementation included in the Bill and the inclusion a possible loophole for the telcos provided by the phrase "reasonable access". Nevertheless this Bill does address a long overdue issue for a vital section of the Australian economy.

My own experience is thus: the introduction of 4G gave me mobile coverage over all my 400 ha farm. In September 2024 Telstra "for commercial reasons" reduced the coverage by 90% and the signal strength in the remainder (line of sight only from the transmitter 6 kms away) to 30-40%. Some of my neighbours lost signal altogether. The other telcos listed in the Bill have only ever provided sporadic coverage on some of the Hume Highway which runs through this district.

The management of Telstra and the other telcos have the sole duty to maximise profit to the benefit of their shareholders and no obligation to mobile users (as they informed users in 2024). That is why passing this Bill into law is essential.

Kevin Rattigan

