

Att Brian Mitchell MP Chair of Committee on Regional Mobile Infrastructure

Hi Brian,

My name is Alun Davies and I have

1. Troubleshooted and facilitated the installation of 80+ Mobile Tower installations in the New England North West Region of NSW
2. Was a member of the 2011-2012 Regional Telecommunications Review Committee
3. Was head of the successfully NBN lobby Group that saw Armidale selected as one of five mainland sites to have NBN FTTP installed
4. Formed the Armidale Digital Economy Implementation Group whose main aims were to help people, organisations and businesses connect to and utilise the NBN.
 - We successfully fixed 250+ connection issues over five(5) years

I would make the following suggestions to your committee on Regional Mobile Infrastructure

1. **Encourage the ACCC to agree to the sharing of infrastructure agreement between Telstra and Vodafone, especially in Renewable Energy Zones(see attached e-mail for my supporting submission to ACCC)**
2. **More use of Renewable Energy(solar panels, wind and batteries) to power sites**
 - I am currently helping to progress two(2) sites in the Armidale Region Wongwibinda and Aberfoyle, with both sites having been delayed by ~4 years due to unforeseen up-grades required further back in the power grid(transformers and cabling).
 - This was despite the fact the nearest power from sites being less than 1km away in clear sight and no tree clearing required
 - **If renewable energy had been used, both these sites would have been up and working three(3) years ago, with cheaper running costs**
 - Higher and more challenging sites could be used, providing a much greater coverage area, not like Numeralla, Kingstown and Balala where the Telco took the easy option utilising 30m poles in valleys on or on the side of hills

- This causes much reduced coverage and the need for more mobile sites
 - **During bushfires, sites would not lose power due to the often long power lines to sites being burnt down.**
 - **They would keep operating to help safety of fire crews and better manage the fires**
- 3. Have NBN Co be involved in providing Mobile Sites for the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot program**
- Telecoms are increasingly taking the cheapest and therefore mostly inefficient coverage sites option, which do not deliver service to the wider community, meaning more towers have to be built
 - NBN Fixed wireless is only a locked down Mobile Network and by NBN Co being involved in expanding the Mobile Network as a wholesale provider would enable more and better sites to be established

The future of Australia will be decided in Regional Areas with Water Efficiency, Food Production, Renewable Energy(see planned investment figures below) and Supply Chains, it is therefore absolutely critical Regional areas have the best Telecommunications and Connectivity possible.

Common sense and Nation Building for our next generations of Australians needs to take precedence here!

Happy to discuss with anyone at anytime

**Regards
Alun**

Alun Davies
Member of New England Vision 2030
Regional Communications Advocate
Member of the Regional Telecommunications Review Committee 2011-2012
Armidale