

**From:** Mark Harvey-Sutton  
**To:** [Committee\\_EC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submission on behalf of the Rural Regional and Remote Communications Coalition  
**Date:** Friday, 14 July 2017 10:38:00 AM

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Dear Senate Committee

There is no greater issue in regional Australia than telecommunications. No matter where you live, you should have access to affordable, reliable internet and voice services. Now is the time for action towards solving the great #datadrought.

The Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition (RRRCC) are a group of like-minded organisations with the objective of making 2017 the year of delivery for better telecommunications in the bush. We are seeking bipartisan support for initiatives that will ensure regional Australians can connect to the 21st century economy and society.

To achieve this we are seeking five outcomes:

1. Guaranteed access to voice and data services;
2. Customer service guarantees that voice and data services meet minimum standards of reliability;
3. Continued programs to expand mobile coverage;
4. Fair and equitable access to Sky Muster satellite services for those with a genuine need for the service, and plans and data allowances that reflect the residential, educational and business needs of rural and regional Australia; and
5. Grants programs to develop and support digital literacy and capacity building.

In regard to the Telecommunications Reform package we take the following positions:

- We welcome the package and would like to see it enacted as soon as possible
- We call on the Minister for Communications to exercise his safeguard powers under the legislation to ensure networks perform to standard.
- We welcome the statutory guarantee that all premises can access a network capable of a 25Mbps peak download and 5Mbps peak upload.
- We anticipate the Regional Broadband Scheme will ensure that customers in rural, regional and remote Australia have affordable access to broadband services.

Yours sincerely  
RRRCC



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