
Submitted on 22 May 2026

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Step 1: Your submission

Remain Anonymous

No

Private Submission

No

Published name

[REDACTED]

Short comment

At Low Holm in the 70's and early 80's we lived with diesel generator power and two way radio as our only method of communication. We talked to the Flying Doctor when needed via the two way. We talked to our School of the Air teachers via the two way. We talked to rural agents, truck companies and other business groups via the two way. We talked to neighbours via the two way. In rainy or stormy weather the reception of the two way radio was basically non existent leaving us cut from business, health and social communication. Through the 80's we were given the option for grid based electricity and in the late 80's a HCRC home telephone. These were both massive steps in development for us from a business and social, emotional and physical health point of view. Telstra now are asking us to step backwards in the satellite based phone service they're providing for what we and Government pay them completely to benefit their own business bottom line.

We are forced to provide the electricity so we can use the service they're providing. Our rural single line electricity is very unreliable particularly during the storm and wet season from October to May every year which leaves us needing to go back to diesel operated generators or solar batteries at our own expense to use the phone service that Telstra is paid to provide us. Our only option for internet is via satellite. We currently have a NBN service and a Starlink service as they're both unreliable enough that we hope when one isn't working the other one might be because to function well as a business we need connectivity. Telstra and the federal government in their incompetence and disregard for us in the bush are now asking us also have our telephone service on a satellite based system. This is a massive step backwards for communications for businesses and families in the bush. From a reliability point of view, we may as well go back to having a two way radio. This is pathetic leadership from our government and cruel business on Telstra's behalf. Oh and they can't provide mobile range for a 200km plus radius around our area either. If they can't provide a stable, self powered reliable home phone then why don't they get mobile coverage across the country? Because it isn't financially viable for them, all the while they're taking massive funding from Government to provide minimal service to vulnerable businesses and people in rural Australia.

Step 2: Contact details

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Consultation name

Extending rules about requests for USO voice services

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