Clarification on Eligibility of NB-IoT Environmental Monitoring Devices for On Farm Connectivity Program

Hello OFCG team,

Thank you for the response.

I would like to address the second paragraph of your response. Our devices do not create independent communication systems — they rely entirely on existing telecommunications services (specifically the Telstra NB-IoT and Cat-M networks). By doing so, they directly utilise and strengthen uptake of these networks on farms.

From our perspective, these devices fit the intent of the program by:

- Extending the practical use of existing telecommunications infrastructure across the farm, including in areas where connectivity would otherwise go unused.
- Supporting farmers to bridge the “last-mile” gap between existing network coverage and on-farm decision-making.
- Driving adoption of connected farm management tools that are only possible when telecommunications networks are actively used.

Could you please clarify whether NB-IoT/Cat-M devices that strictly depend on existing telecommunications infrastructure, may be reconsidered under eligibility? From a farmer’s perspective, these solutions are often their first entry point into fully using connectivity on-farm.

I appreciate your time.

Thanks,

[redacted]
General Manager - IOT
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Dear OFCP Team,

I am seeking clarification regarding the *On Farm Connectivity Program* and the accompanying "Proposed List of Eligible Equipment"

Our company sells NB-IoT connected devices designed for use on farms, including solutions that provide farmers with real-time operational data. These products fall under remote monitoring technology for agricultural purposes, which we would have thought aligned with the program's intent to improve on-farm connectivity.

However, in the "Proposed List of Eligible Equipment," environmental monitoring and sensing solutions are listed as ineligible. This is unclear to us because:

- NB-IoT monitoring devices directly enhance on-farm connectivity by transmitting data from remote or hard-to-reach areas.
    - It states NBIoT devices are approved as connectivity protocols.
- The line between "environmental monitoring" and "agricultural monitoring" is not well-defined in the document.
- Many modern connectivity devices combine environmental data with operational data for more efficient farming.

Could you please confirm:

1. The definition of "environmental monitoring and sensing solutions" in this context.
2. Whether NB-IoT connected monitoring devices used for operational farm management (e.g., water tank level sensors, weather stations, pump control systems) are considered ineligible under this category.
3. The reasoning behind excluding these devices if they meet the program's stated objective of enhancing on-farm connectivity.

We want to ensure that any products we promote under this program are compliant with eligibility criteria, and your clarification will help us advise our clients accurately.

Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to your response.

[redacted]
General Manager - IOT
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