

On Farm Connectivity Program Round 3 – Public Consultation

I am strongly against two of the proposed changes to the third round of the Connectivity Grant.

The first one being that farmers will need to pay 100% of the cost up front and then claim the rebate! This will mean that many farmers will miss out and not be able to take advantage of the grant due to not being in a position to pay the full amount. Many primary producers were only able to take advantage of the last two rounds as they only had to pay for half the cost up front.

The second proposed change I am against is that the farmers will need to complete the application process and all the paperwork themselves. This will be very difficult for those that have little or no digital connectivity or internet in remote areas. These are the farmers that this grant is designed to help but this proposed change will make it much more difficult for them. Farmers are time poor! One of the biggest advantages for the farmers in the previous rounds was that they didn't have to spend a lot of time filling out applications.