

Submission: Regional Connectivity Program

Short feedback

A pre-feasibility on the true cost of land tenure may be prudent. My read on the current FSG Project in our region is that they went in on the presumption of getting access to strategic footprints of land for tower and infrastructure on almost an in-kind basis. I don't think this is how it has panned out ..

Perhaps:

- a. **Timing –a minimum of 18 months from contract execution to complete the project.**
 - a. this is a more reasonable timeframe for telecom infrastructure build - shorter delivery timeframes puts a lot of pressure on the partner Shire(s) and the Telco to rush important processes such as Land access and DA.
- b. **Operational Expense**
 - a. Feedback from carriers is that ongoing cost to operate the kit, lease land or tower space, is becoming increasingly a large barrier despite having the capital subsidised

Do the grants need to be broken into two stages?

Stage 1 – Pre feasibility - Identify and flesh out land tenure issues/limitations / anticipated operational costs;

Stage 2 – Full application - Factors in capital costs and finer detail across operational costs.