Regional Telecommunications Review 2021

Submission by:

Brad Rodgers

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To the committee,

My wife and I retired from our city jobs in Perth a few years ago. We purchased a run-down farm in the south west of WA and have spent 6 years breathing life into it. ████████████████████████████ We are located only 17km from a major town being Manjimup 6258. We live 50% on farm and 50% in Perth.

During this time our "lived in" experience has been one of frustration on the telecommunications front. We have wanted to bring some of our city knowledge of using technology to the farms advantage only to be frustrated on all fronts trying to implement this.

We discussed this with many farming neighbours only to be told "you won't get the coverage you need to do that down here." We have persisted as is the aussie way and have seen some progress that encourages us.

Many of our city friends have visited us and are impressed by our plans on the technology front. Many of them would also consider investment in similar rural endeavours if they could be assured of their telecommunications network to maintain efficiency, safety, security and family communications.

The main area that is a given in the city is the coverage of the mobile phone and data network. Firstly, you only have 1 provider (Telstra) as an option. Secondly there are no fixed line/adsl/nbn options so it is mobile or satellite. Mobile data is expensive and satellite is even more so and not yet good enough. Mobile data and voice works intermittently here and is "1 bar" signal on a good day, during any weather events it drops out often.

So, the opportunity here is for investment in regional area telecommunications so that it would grow and attract wealth away from the cities and bring entrepreneurship with it.

I am happy to make further comment or answer any questions you may have.

Kind Regards

Brad and Jacinta Rodgers

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