Good afternoon.

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of our Pastoral Business Big Ampi Pastoral Pty Ltd.

I am the one of owners of this business situated across nearly half a million acres in Western NSW.
The Pastoral leases are in 2 aggregations and six stations.
One near Mt Hope called Mt Hope Station, Stanifords Station and Thule Station
One near Menindee called Big Ampi, Larloona and Pipla.

We employee anywhere up to 20 staff and contractors at different times and are trying to get mush smarter about our safety controls in our business and use microwave technology to help do that into wifi hubs.

I have another business of Grain export and Logistics employing approx 200 people.

In this business for over 20 years l have worked very closely with Telstra and telstra linked business to have a business that is totally paperless and tracked with GPS and apps built in-house to track all operations on a daily basis.
All our OH&S systems and compliance has been built over this time and has created huge efficiencies for staff.
We can track daily safety toolbox meeting, shift changes, operational requests etc etc.

I have also built with our IT team a intranet/microwave dish system that has linked all our camera and app based programs via a intranet system rather than trying too push all that data back out through the Telstra network and saving thousands of dollars and created huge safety system improvements and real time data availability.

My point is, why can't we create these microwave dish connections in regional Australia to push data around our properties and create an opportunity for people to connect to the internet via telstra nodes that are linked to the fibre optic network.
A lot of our data doesn't need to leave the farm, in the case of cameras to track water and animal welfare issues.
Trying to push cameras over the poor coverage areas is very difficult or hugely expensive via satellites system.
This saves trying to get all the staff using mobile data that is very unreliable and slow at best.
We would create wifi hubs in high use areas like main water tanks, yards, workshops so that we can steam to the main office and items that don't need to go overs the internet saving money and time.
It would give us a huge opportunity to help the children of staff get a far better eduction and it enable then to connect to the world like their city friends. Education of the next generations my experience is the biggest winner and have been left behind in a lot of cases due to poor connectivity in the bush.
We have one family that has 3 children and the internet via the NBN and skymuster is a joke and i have thrown thousands at it to get improved but the data is just very limited. You stream a movie and the next day it can cut you off the system as the data was used and needs time to regain data.

As fibre optic is running across vast areas of Australia and all we need is access to that to tap into mush faster and more reliable internet for the bush.
We pay and maintain all the infrastructure required on the property and telstra or providers hook us to the internet via the optic system and nodes that's already there.

Thanks for for reading and I'm not an expert at this stuff but what we have is very good and I'm pushing my IT team to get a system going at the stations.

Hope it helps others understand what's possible.

Jim Riordan
Managing Director
Riordan Group P/L
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