

ANCHOR
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Regional Telecommunications Review.

Dear Sir,

I am writing in an attempt to answer some of the questions posed in your issue's paper, as they affect rural living people, my wife & myself, both of us aged 80 odd.

Our property is 12 kilometers from Stawell & 10 kilometers from the Grampians national park.

I am deaf, & for a deaf person our land line is useless. I am just not able to hear on it, my wife does use it.

According to Telstra Ads "it is OK", they are not deaf!

Our mobile reception is very poor, to speak (& be heard) we have to go outside onto the verandah, even then communications can be patchy.

The nearest mobile tower is some 12 kilometers away.

My wife's son an internationally employed geologist, with a top line phone, has to go & stand on the nearby dam bank, the highest point around, to make his business calls.

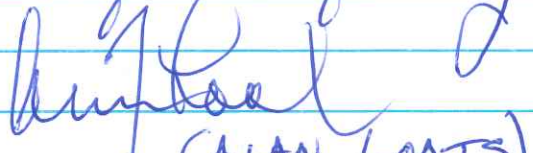
Some years ago much ado was made about a system of emergency calls that would be sent to mobile phones.

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As I wrote earlier we live some
10Ks from the Pyrenean national
park — a notorious lightning & therefore
brushfire prone area (some 260,000 acres)
We have never received any emergency
messages on our phones.

Smoke signals are still available!

I am, yours faithfully.


(ALAN LOATS)