Submission in response to the draft legislation for the Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO)

I represent the interests of three small villages located near Lake Eucumbene in southern NSW.

The villages are Adaminaby, the home of the Big Trout, Old Adaminaby and Anglers Reach.

The economy of the area is dependent on farming, trout fishing, skiing and tourism. Seasonal and local workers travel long distances in the area. There are many black spots lacking mobile coverage even along the Snowy Mountains Highway.

Mobile phone coverage is an essential part of the welfare of the area with winter visitors needing to know the state of the roads which can often be covered in parts by snow or black ice which causes many accidents.

Trout fisherman who venture out onto Lake Eucumbene need to know weather forecasts as the water is subject to rough winds and there have been quite a number of drownings by fishermen ignorant of the weather and the extreme coldness of the lake if a boat capsizes.

The two smaller villages, Old Adaminaby and Anglers Reach, have as permanent residents a significant number of elderly people with their median age in the low 60s. These people rely on the phone for medical contact and general social welfare such as meals on wheels.

Many of the dwellings are used as holiday homes or are rented out to visitors or workers for the Snowy 2.0 project.

Again a reliable mobile phone coverage is an essential part of community life.

In the wild fires of 2019/2020 that burnt out much of the Kosciuszko National Park and surrounds these small communities were entirely reliant on phone or radio coverage to be made aware of the fire spread and the possibility of emergency evacuation.

It is my hope that the proposed legislation will result in improved service and reliability for the villages of Adaminaby, Old Adaminaby and Anglers Reach and the surrounding area.

Robert Lawton

███████████████████████████████████

██

██████████████████████████████

████████████████

████████████████████

I confirm that I am happy to have the submission made public