

Submitter: Peter Lewis

Business Name: -

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Submission

'Dear Sir,

Ten years ago at the Kyogle Community Technology Center, I set up a race to see which was the fastest way to transmit data.

Was Telstra internet faster than a pigeon at taking data between two points.

At the time the biggest memory card was about 64 MB so we put about 55 good resolution photos onto the card and taped it to a pigeon's leg and at the same time sent the images via dial up service. The pigeon took a mere 20 minutes to travel the distance between Kyogle and Casino while the internet took over 5 hours and dropped out twice and eventually we gave upon it.

One might argue we have come a long way, however, because more data could be put onto a flash card, up to 64 GB, anyone living only a couple of kilometers from the town would still be better serviced with a pigeon to deliver fast transmission of data.

People living out of town have high contention ratios with Satellite or wireless internet, high drop out rates and slow speeds. It is not getting better It is getting worse. Yet in some places in Australia that have either been lucky enough to get Fiber ADSL or fixed wireless, they get fast reliable and consistent service. so it has be come down to a lottery. lucky or unlucky. It's no way to enable expansion of intellectual or knowledge economy. It will keep places like Kyogle as almost solely dependent on primary production. Whilst Cattle, timber and agriculture are important. what will transform country towns such as Kyogle is good fast internet. it will enable people to live on the land and engage in media production of knowledge economy products. Authors, musicians, video production, computer programmers, editors etc create additional income and opportunities in the community. where a farmers son may have an interest in computer programming for example would have had to move to the city he might with adequate internet access live on the farm and assist is father whilst pursuing his own career. currently those options are just not available unless you live in town.

Specifically I live high location (300 m above sea level) on a property 11 kilometers from Kyogle. I have line of sight to Casino and almost line of sight to Kyogle and Lismore.

I have tried Optus, Telstra and Vodaphone as well as Kogan and Aldi. i have installed external aerials as well as a range of 3G and 4G dongles. Neighbours have satellite. None of the services are satisfactory. They range from fair to terrible. sometimes ok and then high drop out or slow speeds. Definitely inconsistent would be the general assessment. My partner is an on-line teacher, an e-book and hard copy book author as well as an editor for a electronic newsletter for Communication Technology Centers,

I engage in online selling and electronic media production.

I have asked companies if they wish to erect towers on prominent land in our area and have been told they are not interested at the moment. We require fixed wireless to be able to operate satisfactorily.

It is an embarrassment to still be able to send data quicker via pigeon than through the internet services that are currently available.'

Peter Lewis