

Submission regarding black spot mobile phone reception

I reside on a rural property [personal information removed] Taradale which is about 24 kilometres North of Tumbarumba in NSW with my wife and elderly mother in law.

We have no mobile service in this area and have a very patchy landline service which regularly fails in providing a link to the outside world. The local telephone exchange is very dilapidated and I am informed by Telstra technicians is so antiquated that parts to repair the system are nearly impossible to locate. Recent outages have occurred because there is a hole in the roof which allows rain and moisture to infiltrate the equipment below. Several years ago the door on the exchange rotted away and fell off its hinges allowing all the equipment to become saturated. Telstra were advised but did not come to repair it so it was temporarily repaired by neighbours using steel fencing posts to hold the door in place. It remained like that for several month before a new door was fitted.

This area is fairly isolated and distant from medical services and support. Increasingly the Taradale Road is being used by tourists and other visitors to the area because of its scenic route.

During recent bushfires we had no communication for many weeks unless we drove to the Hume Highway at Tarcutta which is 50 kilometers away from here.

We run a cattle breeding operation and are constantly hampered by the lack of mobile telephone services. We cannot use any of the modern applications and service offered to farmers and are therefore at a serious financial disadvantage in our enterprise.

We feel that we are living in a 3rd world country and not Australia as we see our urbanised relatives having modern communication services while we can only dream about such a coverage.

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