

Burbidge Farms

[personal information removed]

Tarcutta

NSW 2652

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15/06/2020

To whom it may concern,

We run a commercial fine wool merino business in rural South Eastern NSW (Oberne Valley, 32km from Tarcutta, 36 km Tumbarumba NSW, in the Riverina and Eden Monaro electorates) employing up to 12 people at various times of the year. There is very limited mobile coverage in most of our area. We are able to access 1 bar of mobile phone coverage at our house/office, which disappears 20 m away from the back door once the repeater is out of range and it drops out continually.

It is difficult to run a business with limited service.

Telstra is the only provider available

Communication with employees is difficult

This is a bushfire prone region (Dunns Rd fire) in which we lost 1200 acres of land. Trucks could only communicate with UHF radios.

Lack of communication in an emergency is dangerous

Many trucks and larger vehicles use the road to deliver stock, fertiliser and farm goods which can be difficult for them with no service

Oberne Hall is the community evacuation point with no service

We would be very appreciative if our area could be considered for a mobile tower, benefiting many farming, forestry and emergency workers. Mt Oberne could be a location for a repeater to provide service to a large proportion of the population living in this area who currently have limited or no service.

Your sincerely

Annette Burbidge

Burbidge Farms

RFS Oberne Creek Member