

10 June 2016

Pauline Sullivan
Assistant Secretary, Spectrum Branch
Department of Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Sullivan,

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Department of Communications and the Arts draft ministerial direction on unsold 700 MHz spectrum.

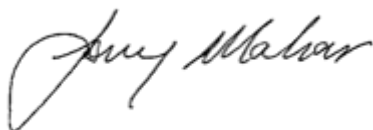
The NFF is the peak national body representing farmers and the agriculture sector across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all Australia's major agricultural commodities. Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

Regional communities continue to face difficulties in accessing quality, affordable and reliable telephone services. This is despite improvements to date associated with the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and continued investment in the Mobile Blackspot Programme. At the same time, agriculture is emerging as a significant growth sector in the Australian economy, and digital infrastructure will play an important role in underpinning that success.

Regarding the unsold spectrum, the NFF supports the fair and reasonable allocation of spectrum as a means by which to promote competition in the regional telecommunications market. Such competition should consequently work to improve the ability of regional users to access effective and affordable telecommunications.

Should you seek any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr Chris Young, Manager of Rural Affairs, at cyoung@nff.org.au or on 6269 5666.

Regards,



TONY MAHAR

Chief Executive Officer