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Rob Lennon

Submission to RTIRC

To secretariat@rtirc.gov.au

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I live near the Broombee Telecommunication relay tower between Coolah and Dunedoo in the NSW Central West, and have been a resident here for almost 25 years.

In this time, I have seen many changes, but few more significant than the shift to internet-based communication. I use the internet in my capacity (to name the main ones) as:

- A father of three kids at boarding school/college
- Farm business owner
- Direct marketer of beef
- Rural NSW marketing representative for my former college
- 'Public Officer' for the Leadville Community Association Incorporated
- Member of the local Bush Fire Brigade
- Personal use

Just this morning, I have used it for the following:

- Ordered school photos from Cliff Dykes (school photographer)
- Down loaded the A12 form from the website of Dept Fair Trading
- Sent a variety of e-mails, including several to my children at boarding school
- Checked my business name details on the ASIC website
- Did some web-searching for accommodation
- Made this submission to RTIRC

Please note the time on this e-mail. I start work in the office at 4.00am most mornings, as the internet connection is unreliable during daylight hours - even now it is painfully slow, and pages are often lost and need reloading. This is largely the reason I struggle with issues like:

- Communications with child support in a timely manner
- Finding/submitting a variety of forms on websites for printing
- Making submissions (like this one to the RTIRC)

I guess there is no going back now - the internet is being embraced by people, businesses and government bodies everywhere as the preferred form of communication, and it is because we (the general population) **don't have a choice**, that the internet communication for all Australians needs to be accessible.

The local Broombee tower (and probably many others like it across rural NSW) seem to me to be an obvious place to start improving internet connectivity for people living on farms. The power and general infrastructure is already in place, thus making it more cost-effective on a per-household basis.

Please contact the writer in the event the RTIRC has any questions or points of clarification, and thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Kind regards,

Rob.



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