

Dear Sirs

I live in Baerami, 3 hour's drive from Sydney in the Hunter Valley. I operate an Angus beef cattle breeding business. The Baerami valley is one of several valleys extending south from the Goulburn/Hunter River valleys into the Wollemi National Park. None have mobile telephone coverage or non-satellite television. We rely on satellite access for internet/email and fixed line telephone. The satellite is over-allocated and very slow, with inherent latency delays which prevent video applications (e.g. U-tube, I-View, television on demand, Skype) and any interactive graphic application (e.g. maps). Satellite Broadband, whatever its speed, will never be satisfactory for these applications. There is no plan for these areas ever to qualify for NBN access. Mobile access would give us wireless broadband communication and most essential services taken for granted by most Australians. The population in the local areas where there is no mobile coverage is estimated to be several thousand people. There are many high hills nearby with line-of-sight to most of these properties. For example if there was a mobile tower on top of Mount Dangar it would eliminate most of this blackspot. Also, distances for laying fibre-optic cable are not great. If the economics of these solutions require a small subsidy from government then it could arguably be justified.

Yours faithfully

Angus Neil-Smith

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Ph. [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]