



Wed 15/07/2015 5:20 PM

Suzette Van Aswegen

FW: NCR152567 - Regional Telecommunications Review SUBMISSION

To secretariat@rtirc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of the Shire of Irwin, please find the following submission on your proposed regional review on telecommunications.

The Shire is supportive of this review and look forward to some improvements. The Shire is particularly please with the roll out of NBN in the Shire's district.

To follow are a few notes for your consideration.

1. Country people have an elevated need for reliable and comprehensive telecommunications at all times not just periodically. The distance to emergency and essential services for people living outside regional centres necessitates constant, functional access.
2. Mobile phone coverage is not adequate in certain areas. This is frustrating, detrimental to small business efficiency and denies country people working in isolation (such as farming) a health and safety communication service.
3. Tourists complain about sporadic mobile phone coverage when travelling.
4. Access to the Internet is affecting small business. The intermittent loss of Internet connection is inefficient and very annoying. The Shire is aware of someone who operates her own consultancy business in Port Denison who is now relocating to Perth primarily because she cannot continue to function with the current level of Internet access.
5. ABC radio reception remains poor and patchy in Irwin. The ABC is relied on for broadcasting warnings and emergency information. The farming community in particular utilise the ABC rural programs for information and updates. Radio reception needs to be of an audible and consistent standard across the Midwest.
6. The standard of television reception with the change to digital is still a major issue for many people living in Dongara. The Shire receives ongoing complaints from residents who remain very dissatisfied with the standard of their television reception.

Kind regards

Suzette van Aswegen

Acting Chief Executive Officer

