

Submission to the Regional Telecommunications Review

My wife and I operate a family beef cattle business in Southern Queensland outside Roma along with our three school aged children. Our eldest two are at boarding school.

The internet is a huge part of our life. Our children use it regularly for school and we rely on it heavily to communicate with them and their teachers. The internet has revolutionised communication for boarding school children.

Likewise, the internet has revolutionised business. Banking, in particular is much easier with the modern systems that we have today. Likewise, research of machinery parts, livestock market reports, auction sales and everyday email are all at our fingertips thanks to the internet. Google Earth and You Tube are extremely useful tools. The internet is a vital tool for family and business today.

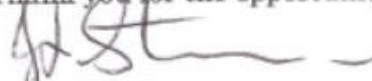
Our internet is via the wireless broadband service with Telstra. From the outset it must be made clear that this is a terrific service. It has good download speed and is rarely out of service. We have access to eight gigabytes each month which costs \$40. Fifteen and twenty five gigabytes costs \$100 and \$125 respectively while residents who can access ADSL in urban centres have 500 gigabytes of download, plus a landline for less than \$100!

As a family we work hard at limiting our internet use so as to not "run out of data" by the end of the month. You Tube is out of bounds for our children!

The cost of data in rural Australia is a financial discrimination that our residents should not have to face. We rely on good communication systems to keep us in touch with the outside world as well as run our business in the Twenty-first century.

My submission relates to the cost per megabyte of internet usage for people who live outside urban centres. Telecommunications is not only vital for everyday living today, but it is even more vital for those of us who are geographically isolated.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.


James L Stinson.
12/06/15