



2015 Regional Telecommunications Review Secretariat

Department of Communications

secretariat@rtirc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide input into its deliberations

For over ten years now YLESS4U, a telecommunications carrier and WISP, has had a network of base sites surrounding the ACT region, predominantly in the Eden-Monaro electorate, and in the Palerang, Goulburn-Mulwaree and Yass Local Government Areas (LGAs). This sub-region has the highest proportion of rural residential zoning in NSW, acting as a commuter belt for Canberra and Queanbeyan. It includes a very high percentage of professional and para-professional residents. Base sites are predominately located on private property, and connected via L2 high speed links, providing contiguous fixed wireless coverage approximating 6,500 square kilometres. The terrain ranges from rugged mountainous to deep valleys, and contains several small villages. Distances between base sites range from 1km through 43kms.

Working solely in these rural and remote areas, we have watched the various Federal and State policies and programs come and go. Our experience shows that the national gains in rural areas have been small given the resources expended over the decade. We support and recommend further consideration of the approach put forward by the Upper Lachlan Shire Council in its submission to the committee. It has been helpful to have the submissions progressively published online. This latter action, allowed us to both see the ULSC submission in an early timeframe and frame our response accordingly.

We were pleased to read the submission as it directly substantiates our view of fixed wireless options –one that we have held and attempted to communicate for some time now – i.e. engage the local communities (stakeholders) in extending the infrastructure out to these lower population density areas.

Given the limited resources across the nation, and the cost of each NBN fixed wireless tower, we would urge the committee to consider alternative, more cost effective options -leveraging and/or upgrading of suitable existing infrastructure to provide services to these low density areas.

A 'lite' version of the NBN fixed wireless solution could potentially be provided through extensions from the proposed NBN towers, by smaller community and/or regionally based fixed wireless providers. Where possible, priority would be given to LGAs who are willing to assist/co-contribute to the process. Councils know their LGAs and the voice/data 'black spots'.

Attached is an analysis of the potential RF coverage utilising the existing RFS assets in the Upper Lachlan Shire LGA, an area already described in their submission's 'word picture'. We chose to model our analysis there so as to visualise the impact of using the local RFS assets. This has been



modelled on an indicative tower height of 20metres, with a receiver located 3 metres AGL - (indicative handheld coverage). It does not take into account possible vegetation impediments.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission further and in more detail if the committee sees a benefit in doing so.

Yours sincerely

ANTHONY GOONAN

Director

Yless4u

15th July 2015

Attachment: map of indicative RF coverage in Upper Lachlan Shire

