

To whom it may concern,

The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) is a not-for-profit membership organisation serving as the peak business body in Tasmania. With a diverse membership base comprising over 5500 direct and indirect members.

We welcome the opportunity to provide our insights in response to the Department's Discussion Paper concerning the Enhanced Provision of Universal Services.

The provision of dependable telephone and broadband services holds pivotal significance, particularly for residents and businesses situated in remote and regional locales across Tasmania.

Acknowledging the dynamic evolution of technology in recent years, we underscore the imperative for governmental policies and regulatory frameworks to remain aligned with these advancements.

It is incumbent upon regulations to adapt alongside technological progress, thereby facilitating access for Tasmanians in regional areas to the latest and most fitting technological infrastructures available.

In this vein, we advocate for amendments to the Universal Service Obligation (USO) that empower service providers to furnish fixed-line and broadband services utilizing the most suitable technologies attainable.

The progression towards modern technologies is paramount to ensuring that regional Tasmanians are not impeded by outdated legacy systems but rather empowered by cutting-edge solutions.

Furthermore, it is essential that future regulatory frameworks incorporate robust consumer protections and safeguards, which are straightforward yet effective. Future obligations should prioritize the provision of affordable and accessible options, thereby extending the benefits of connectivity to a broader spectrum of our community.

Thank you for considering our submission and feel free to make this document public.

Kind regards,

**Michael Bailey**

Chief Executive Officer

TASMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

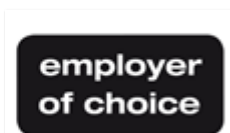
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