

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 3:01 PM  
**To:** Regional Telecommunications Review 2024 <[RTIRC@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:RTIRC@infrastructure.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Regional Telecommunication Review Cooma Area. ( Countegany Area )

Hi Review Panel,

I will not be able to make the public consultation to be held in Cooma 10/8/24 as we are having a Fire Management Preparedness day for the [REDACTED] and the surrounding areas. However I have been working very hard for my community since the 2019 , 2020 fires and one of the area of concern was with communications. See information below:

Background information.

The badja forest fire started at [REDACTED] and there was limited RFS support as there were many fires within the region as you would be very well aware. The community has formed its own RFS crew after these fires. We are now in consultation with the RFS Cooma district office regarding the construction a brigade shed. I have personal offered a parcel of land for the shed to be built on. This will be in the form of a licence agreement with the local council. I have also offered Telstra the opportunity to look at the stie with a view that mobile phone tower could be constructed.

In addtion since the fires I have also been in discussion with governement and priveite agencies looking at a couple of issues to do with communications and public safety within this region.

I do know that the government is looking at upgrading this PSN (public safety network) for the emergency agencies within the south east. 17 sites in all. I am pretty sure much of this work is complete within the area.

There were also a number of Recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster see below information from the report:

***Recommendation 6.3 Interoperable communications for fire and emergency services across jurisdictions***

*State and territory governments should update and implement the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability, or otherwise agree a new strategy, to achieve interoperable communications across jurisdictions.*

**6.105**

*A national PSMB capability would confer significant benefits to emergency responders in the states and territories, and should be prioritised. The cost of the PSMB should be shared by governments reflecting the collective responsibility and shared benefits of a national capability for emergency responders*

***Recommendation 6.4 Delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability***

*Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.*

As discussed above the mobile network out here is very limited also and caused issues in the fires and more recently with a couple of issues in the national park where a person broke their leg and no coverage and where a [REDACTED]. Both these incidents people had to travel to get service, this took much time.

I am just looking to see how we can empower our community and make it feel secure. See if there is the potential for some proactive investment, strategic planning which engages all stakeholders in the community, government agencies will help in preparing for future natural disasters. As discussed I have been consulting with a number of agencies including the following Telstra , NBN the National Emergency Management Agency and the Tech Hub. All of those metioned agencies met and visitored my property and looked at the proposed site for the RFS shed and the proposed mobile phone tower site.

I fully understand that to build a moblie phone tower is costly and we are just one of many community with connectivity issues. Telstra has looked at the site and said it is a good location but have no plans to build anything within this area at present. I am also aware that new technologies which are being development maybe the answer for community across regional Australia.

Anyway thanks for taking the time to read my email, I could have said much more but it is best to keep it simple.

If wish to contact me, my contact details are as follows [REDACTED] , which is the best number to get me on. Mobile is [REDACTED].

Regards [REDACTED]