

Jon Elder  
Farmer



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To Whom It May Concern,

Thankyou for the opportunity to have say on this matter. While there have been some improvements, we continue to have an expensive and substandard service. This is particularly poor in the area of mobile broadband coverage; both for phone usage and provision of internet access around the farm. In fact, broadband coverage appears to be getting worse.

Poor mobile broadband coverage renders any internet connectivity around the farm completely unreliable. This prevents the application of 'real-time' technologies such as those used to measure and monitor, as well as a reliable means to access information and conduct business. This can be as simple as being unable to make a phone call, the phone 'dropping out', and unreliable access to markets and banking. We are also missing out on improvements to farm safety that improved connectivity may offer.

We have spent tens of thousands of dollars developing bespoke on-farm telecommunications networks to allow real-time monitoring of weather and in-crop conditions, farm machinery, irrigation and security systems. Much of this expense would be unnecessary if we been able to place some confidence in mobile coverage.

COVID lockdowns have required increased use of on-line technologies such as 'zoom' both for personal and business usage. This places us at a distinct disadvantage.

I appreciate the opportunity to have a say on this matter and strongly believe that an investment in achieving a reliable service would be re-payd by unlocking considerable economic and social benefit in rural areas.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Elder