To whom it may concern,

Our local MP Dr Anne Webster invited me to talk at the independent review of telecommunication in region, rural and remote Australia however due to having a scheduling conflict I was unable to do so and requested instead that I be allowed to submit this, my opinions in writing.

Reliability is something we all wish we had out here and while I must applaud Telstra and to a lesser extent Optus and Vodafone for their efforts through the government grants in reducing blackspots there are still a large number of areas were you get no service or intermittent service, often on roads were if you were to break down it would be a long hike to get help, however this isn't something that is easily 'addressed' there are limitations that anyone who lives in these areas can appreciate, terrain blocks signals and that limits connectivity still it would be nice if a repeater would be built to help cover some of these zones like on the Sea Lake Swan Hill road.

On Broadband, as Anne Webster is aware I am not overly impressed with how our region in particular has been treated when it comes to Broadband, we have 2 options currently either remain with ADSL2+ through the exchange with its early 90's era DSLAM technology and the limitations of reduced up bandwidth or switch to Sky Muster as NBNCo for some reason decided that entire towns out here in an almost 70km 'bubble' should be lumped into the 'Too Hard, Don't Try' category and left to use a system that was never designed for township use satellite. Now some might stop and say 'but its high speed' it is not, it is barely more bandwidth then what you receive on ADSL2+ technology currently available through Telstra and is considerably MORE expensive for LESS of a product but rather then admit this NBNCO continues to claim that we should be 'grateful' for what we are given and that towns like Sea Lake are 'not economically viable for fixed wireless or fibre' despite the fact that in some places they have installed these technologies for as little as 3 houses.

It is not fair; it is not a solution. Towns like Sea Lake are missing out on actual economic opportunities that could be grasped if the government and NBNCo were willing to actually do what they said and give all Australians access to true High speed internet, especially when they already have ADSL2 exchanges, there are hundreds if not thousands of economical opportunities being lost because of it given that regional Australia has some of the lowest commercial rates in the country, often towns screaming for ways to make jobs and NBNCo could have helped with that! By installing Fibre and/or fixed wireless they open these areas to actually being able to run or start new businesses things like internet server farms and data centres, remote/working from home Job options, Better real time remote learning and all the other things that people in the cities can readily look at starting up or just take for granted however we do not have those options because instead of giving us actual proper internet access, fast modern bidirectional high speed internet, we are expected to rely on 'limited', 'time blocked' Prime Time/Off Peak access on Sky Muster were we pay as much as we would for UNLIMITED use on ADSL2 for as little as 100gb of data, what's worse is that for example emergent technologies like Elon Musks Star Link shows just how outdated Sky Muster is.

It isn't right and it isn't fair, the only hope regional Australian towns like we have is either through the government 'connectivity' grants in the hope that maybe like Kaniva we can get either Fixed Wireless or Fibre installed, or that Telstra will install 5G networks into the region, allowing us to not only remain with network providers we already have, as currently many of those providers do not even support NBNCo's Sky Muster offerings (Telstra again a great example) or that private companies like Telstra choose to upgrade us, or the afore mentioned Star Link, because right now the option touted by the government as an 'improvement' for us is anything but and to make matters worse

Even now it's hard to separate out the singular 'issues' into small points because everything is interlinked when it comes to regional communications if you can't use a phone your isolated and unable to get emergency care or information, if you can't get a proper internet connection due to lack of data, lack of bandwidth especially today in the 21st century when everything is so interlinked then you might as well be back in the 90's again and to be frank it is frustrating, more so for me as someone who's tutored some of the older generation in the use of the net and computers as I have had to hear them say 'thanks, but it's so slow I don't think I can be bothered' or 'I wanted to talk with my grandkids but while I could see them I was a blurry mess to them' etc its wrong and it's' sad because it doesn't and shouldn't be this way.

Regional Australia needs to be given the same technology and the same opportunities as Metro and Rural Australia, the data from farmers, the ability for towns to engage in the digital economy your location shouldn't be the deciding factor in any of this, not today, not with things like Star Link going active, 5G and how cheap fibre has become.

Thank you.

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