

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Unfortunately I haven't had time to get this in as I had only heard of this 2 days ago!

I run a media company in the rural area of Alice Springs and have done so for 22 years. A large part of my business is supplying 4K stock footage to clients such as BBC, National Geographic and I have been signed by global stock companies Getty Images in NY and Keycut stock in South Korea. In the last year I've won 12 international awards for cinematography mainly in the landscape and nature area, but that doesn't mean much if I can't actually deliver the product I make. 4K stock footage in broadcast resolution uses between 30 and 60gb *per minute*. The lack of decent internet service has put my business expansion back 8 years so far.

Here is my 22 year summary of the issues we have had at Iparpa, a rural suburb of Alice Springs. Legally in the town and just 9km from one of the most modern towns in Australia.

When we moved onto our block in 1998 (we had lived in the valley twice before that) internet was an interesting concept but not all that important in our lives. It couldn't be really, as I remember a 40mb software update taking all night and much of the next morning to download. These days of course it is a critical resource to 99% of people for their kid's education, home business, entertainment, emergency communication (especially as many people rid themselves of landlines) and much more. Over the last 23 years I have lobbied various governments, including senate enquiries, to improve services in our valley. At first we were told we couldn't get ADSL as Telstra had put in a "pair gain" system with their copper wires out here, effectively splitting services to save money and rendering a dedicated one-on-one ADSL connection impossible. Later we were excited to see Next Gen lay a fibre cable along Iparpa Road, which is still there today. Next Gen had done this "on spec" all over Australia hoping to lease the infrastructure back to NBN but in this case NBN declined to do so. NBN then promised that any locality with 100 houses or more would get fibre, with many blocks having 2 residences out here, that meant Iparpa. But instead NBN came back with a proposal to build a tower out on the flat, in the conservation area but this didn't go ahead and there was no Plan B for our supposedly "guaranteed" NBN.

With the overloaded TV Tower site at West Gap not available for NBN our options for better services were running out rapidly and chances for improved services diminished again. Fast forward many years and Telstra (and I'm no big fan normally) offered to step into the breach that NBN seemed unwilling or unable to fill. They offered to build a tower outside the conservation area (surely there would be no objections now) to service the next generation of residents from Ross Highway right through to Honeymoon Gap. But no, the NT Development Consent Authority halted the last viable option we had to improve services out here. Actually it would have been a vast improvement as a dedicated cell just for us would probably have never been overloaded.

Telstra have told us both that (a) there is unlikely to ever be a 5G service in the NT and that 3G services to Ilparpa will be discontinued in the next year or so. This leaves us with just an already totally dysfunctional 4G service as the only option for Telstra customers, and as many residents work out bush from here Telstra is our only option for wide connectivity as we move from remote community to remote community which often only have Telstra. Bottom line though is where is our NBN in any case? Skymuster is a joke and why we should be forced onto a satellite service anyway?...as if we are second class citizens of town, and I repeat we are just 9km from the post office.

I am currently using local company Bizcom who can offer me a bulletproof service of 600gb a month but for *hundreds* of dollars per month. If any business should be subsidised by government to "fill in the cracks" on connectivity Australia-wide it should be local companies like Bizcom, who have shown great initiative in this area and extraordinary technical support 24 hours a day. The big Telcos have proven they can't do it, let's give the locals a go.

Chris Tangey

**Winner**

- Paris Art and Movie Awards 2020
- New York International Film Awards 2020
- Asian Cinematography Awards Manila 2020
- European Cinematography Awards Amsterdam 2020
- Oniros® Film Awards New York 2020
- Buenos Aires International Film Festival 2020
- Austria International Film Festival 2020
- Seattle Film Festival 2021
- Kalakari Film Festival India 2021
- Dual Finalist ACS National Awards for Cinematography 2021

