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Rural Communications or the lack thereof.

There are fundamentally many reasons for increased capability requirements for communication in regional and rural areas.

-Economics

-Safety

-Health

2019 through to present and beyond has new demands on all residents of Australia brought through Covid and prior to this in NSW and other states that have been affected by the drought and then bushfires.

These three large scale emergencies have created a new way of life. The drought and fires demanded that rural and regional economies diversify for income. There has been a substantial cultural change in the rural business market and end sales on a micro level. It is more common for direct sales now than it has ever been and traditional farming has changed to a more direct approach especially in a diverse product range.

Traditionally it was more common for business to direct all sales through agents back through major centres throughout that had greater communication whereas these days this is not the case and nor is the common product and individuals are having to market themselves and sell directly.

Covid has brought greater increase to the attraction of living regionally and one of the biggest downsides for both residence and business relocation to the regional and rural Australia is poor communication and for the poor quality communication that is available through satellite or old copper equipment can be intermittent at best or excessively expensive.

The increase in communication can only make regional and rural areas more attractive than then increase the affordable property market as well as serviceability for residence of the areas as business develops.

Safety, 2019- 2020 Bush Fires highlighted this issue and the recovery.

As a RFS officer who deployed from regional NSW to the North of the state to the south of the State to assist over a period of 4 to 5 months when I was available, the lack of communication availability and

real time data made delayed strategy and response. This is also evident in small incident response when people may have a individual car accident on a low communication service rd and then be unable to call for assistance. As a regional member of the RFS in a low communication area I can testify that I have attended MVA's occasioning death where the victum was alive for first on scene and then passed in period after arrival but before appropriate medical could be applied. Now if this victum was able to call themselves and or even if a passing witness was able to call for assistance from the scene this would save valuable time to life, rather than having to drive to find reception.

Health, mental health, most particullary. The number of occasions that the old copper service in areas it continues to serve is so un reliable and paticular when in stroms and rain that expecting that it will serve so those requiring to welfare checks ect and the ability to be able to communicate during time of duress like the drought is not an acceptable compromise to cost. The suicide rate regionally should not be acceptable at any level of governance. The ability to be able to talk and increase social interaction is a significant component to those with mental health issues.

If communities became more attractive and therefore more social and supportive then it can only be good thing on all levels.

I had a copper line into my property that was damaged through lightening strike in 2020 and Telstra have refused to repair it due to the poor system to that point, I can not justify repairing a copper line to no availble internet nodes ect. How is this acceptable governing in a 1st work nation. There is better clearer service to the East Jungles of Java Indonesia that I witnessed in 2009.