

We live on a farm at Ballalaba (postcode 2622 ) outside of Braidwood-about 60 kms from Canberra as the crow flies.

Our primary means of communication is an old land line that was installed in the 1950s. We have no mobile phone coverage and the Skymuster internet service we access is depressingly slow. Our lack of access to modern communication systems (systems that urban Australians take for granted) means that we are at a disadvantage in terms of our personal safety on the farm and our ability to do business ( some suppliers/service companies and/or clients will not deal with you unless you provide them with a mobile phone number). All up we are effectively living in the past (circa 2000) communications-wise. Even our landline sometimes plays up after heavy rain.

Election after election both Federal and State candidates have promised that the situation will be addressed - it (at least for us) hasn't been. As the frequency of severe bushfires, floods and droughts increases due to climate change we are at greater and greater risk of being cut off in times of crises.

It seems both reasonable and fair that we are within our rights to demand this situation be rectified. We are tired of being dismissed in our call for equality. We are tired of listening to the never-realised promises of politicians .It's time to do as something...or admit that you have failed in your mission.

Yours sincerely

T and J Lenehan

