

Hi Secretariat,


I tried to submit a short feedback comment on the 2021 Regional Telecommunication Review website.

I noticed the website mentioned file upload error, after I hit submit. (via "have your say" )

I have enclosed my feedback below, if it also did make it through the website, I apologise for submitting twice.

Thanks very much, regards Gerard O'Shea

Gerard O'Shea



My response:

I applaud any attempt to improve communications infrastructure, especially to regional areas. However the review paper talks about rollouts of new technologies, changes to demand, improvements to bandwidth, and awareness campaigns. But without the very basic service coverage it is all rather meaningless. We live just 10k's out of a major regional centre in NSW and am still waiting for Telstra mobile coverage. The old Analogue mobile network used to work in this area, but the promise of equivalent digital coverage never eventuated. We are lucky that we now have NBN fixed wireless coverage, but many of our neighbours are still forced to rely on Satellite. We have been told Wifi calling is hence the answer to lacking mobile coverage but this is not provided to Telstras service providers/resellers. We were informed about our NBN fixed wireless service, very soon after we were connected to it, that the capacity was now limited and we were given 3 options (to change to another technology, drop down to a lower plan to save money, or just put up with capacity limits) I would consider all 3 to be unsuitable options for the provision of ongoing data services to the bush, especially when the only alternative technology is Satellite. We live in a bush fire prone area with only a single road access and once power goes out we loose all communication. So while it is exciting to look at the technology developments that the issues paper talks about, if the fundamental provision of a decent reliable broadband service, and consistent mobile coverage cannot be provided the Government is missing the absolutely necessary basics. If you do not have solid basic connectivity any talk about roadmaps and technical evolutions is meaningless and very frustrating.