

2021 Regional Telecommunications Review Secretariat
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the *2021 Regional Telecommunications Review*. The critical role that telecommunications play in informing, coordinating and protecting our communities is well recognised. BRV is grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to this review on behalf of the communities recovering from the Black Summer and Eastern Victorian fires of 2019-20, specifically East Gippsland and the North East region of the state.

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) was established on 6 January 2020, soon after the 2019-20 Eastern Victorian Fires. We are working directly with impacted communities, individuals and various stakeholders to 'build back better' to emergency events. The process of rebuilding and recovery will take years and require the support of partners from across the state, local and Commonwealth governments, businesses, non-government organisations and the community.

BRV strongly supports the Committee's efforts in reviewing the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural, and remote parts of Australia. We believe there are many opportunities to improve digital and telecommunications services, proactively contributing to the recovery of our fire impacted communities. Please find accompanying this letter a submission that seeks to be concise, yet constructive and insightful to the consultation and review process. The submission is buttressed by key strategies and plans, and also attempts to concentrate the feedback from numerous meetings and discussions with regional and local members.

If you have any further questions or need clarification on information in the submission, please do not hesitate to contact Luke Bott, A/ Program Manager, Buildings & Infrastructure: Luke.Bott@brv.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Kate Millar
Executive Director Recovery Programs
Bushfire Recovery Victoria

30 / 09 / 2021