

Dear Sir / Madam,

Somerset Regional Council Submission: Regional Telecommunications Review

Somerset Regional Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee on the review into telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia.

Telecommunications infrastructure is critical for the ongoing growth and prosperity of the Somerset Region. Located on the doorstep of metropolitan Brisbane, our region's beautiful scenery, rural lifestyle, and welcoming community will see our region naturally continue to grow. However, Council recognises that a key building block for the growth of a vibrant, cohesive and connected region is digital connectivity and telecommunications infrastructure.

Council's submission recommends:

Mobile Black Spot Program and Regional Connectivity Program

Council recommends ongoing funding support via both Mobile Black Spot Program and Regional Connectivity Programs. Although less than 90 minutes from the Brisbane CBD, the Somerset Region still has several locations, including along State Highways, with poor mobile coverage and mobile black spots that pose as significant disincentives in regional growth and investment.

Broadband accessibility and performance

The Somerset Region Council currently enjoys a variety of different types of broadband access. The performance and access to networks inhibits inbound investment and digital productivity, particularly where only fixed wireless or satellite is available. For example, one of Council's five major towns (or urban footprints) only currently has access to fixed wireless network with variable performance.

Councils recommends ongoing funding support for the continual review and improvement of broadband access of regional towns to support growth, development and digital productivity.

Council is again thankful for this opportunity and looks forward to the Committee's final report. For further information please do not hesitate contacting me on [REDACTED]

Kind Regards,

Regards,

Andrew Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
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