

## **SUBMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Subject: 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review

### **Recommendation 1**

- The Australian, state and territory governments should permanently designate telecommunications and associated services and infrastructure as an 'essential service' in all relevant Acts/legislation and those providers are recognised as 'essential users' in natural disaster areas to strengthen regional communities' safety as well as continuity of Australian agriculture.

### **Recommendation 2**

- Increased investment in support for place-based connectivity solutions through third-party solution investment, and integrated telecommunications support.

### **Recommendation 3**

- The Australian Government to establish a Rural, Regional and Remote Communications Fund to provide secure ongoing investment to improve mobile connectivity and to leverage State and Territory and telecommunication provider co-investments.

### **Recommendation 4**

- Investigate and provide funding to help growers improve their own on-farm telecommunications infrastructure (i.e. boosters, small cell towers etc.) through meaningful collaboration to ensure solutions that work for regional communities.

### **Recommendation 5**

- That the Regional Tech Hub be provided continued funding to help people Rural, Regional and Remote Areas get connected and stay connected.

### **Recommendation 6**

- Support farmers and their communities to access independent and trusted advice on how to maximise network coverage and access sufficient internet connectivity.