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The difficulty with telecommunications coverage in rural Darwin is the uncertainty that you have for emergency coverage. Our property at 290 Wheewall Road has adequate coverage, yet a few kilometres either side and we're in a black spot. I don't have any coverage at the rear of the block. I have been in need of assistance on Finn Road previously without a single bar of coverage.

In addition, from a consumers perspective we are disadvantaged by the fact that the only way to ensure the limited coverage we do have, is to be a Telstra customer. Other networks do not have any coverage.

It can feel isolating and dangerous to not know that the minimum coverage experienced by the majority of Australians, cannot be offered to us while we are full time workers, home owners, rate payers, tax payers.

With urban spread, our community is growing. Expectations on the network will grow commensurately. Rural living comes with its challenges and most people are expecting of this. However lack of basic amenity, that can be delivered through capital investment but simply isn't, is not equitable.

Rachelle Hobbs

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