Dear Communications department staff

Please see below my submission to the Regional Connectivity Program discussion paper.

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Question 2

Should other parties, for example local government authorities, business organisations or industry groups, be allowed to lead a bid for Regional Connectivity Program funding?

Proposed response: *Other parties should be able to lead bids, including state and local governments, subject to a licenced telecoms carrier being a signed-up party to the bid. This will allow these parties to take the initiative to push a project forward.*

Question 3

Are there other organisations beside local, state and territory governments that could be considered 'trusted sources of information' for the purposes of identifying local telecommunications priorities?

Proposed response: *Regional representative bodies such as the nine Regional Partnerships in Victoria, should be included as a trusted source of information on local telecoms priorities*

Question 6

What type of projects should be considered for funding through the Regional Connectivity Program?

Proposed response: *Extending the NBN fixed line footprint into current NBN fixed wireless and satellite areas, early deployment of 5G coverage in regional area, low earth orbit satellite mobile solution demonstration projects and regional digital hubs should be explicitly included as eligible projects*

Question 11

Is there a case for a third category, for highly localised solutions for projects that, for example, are seeking funding of less than $200,000 (GST inclusive)?

Proposed response: *A less than $500,000 category should also be included*

Question 13

Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment criteria?

Proposed response: *While these assessment criteria are sound, further detail needs to be added including weighting for each criteria and what constitutes a "pass" grading for each criteria (given all criteria need to be met)*