

From: James Burns
To: secretariat@rtirc.gov.au
Cc: barnaby.joyce.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: 2018 Regional Telecommunications Review Submission
Date: Sunday, 15 July 2018 5:07:24 PM

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to make a submission to the Telecommunications review for the areas of Rouchel and Upper Rouchel in The Federal Seat of New England, State seat of Upper Hunter and Shire of Upper Hunter.

The larger Rouchel area has very poor performing telecommunications and required immediate improvement. As a remote area with a proud farming community and a strong horse sports tradition it is an area that needs the services of mobile communications.

With regards to making life easier there are properties in the area that have been upgraded to smart meters for their electricity service but without a reliable and effective communications network in the area these meters are rendered useless, The service is estimated which is not accurate or a meter reader has to attend these properties this negates the installation of the smart meter in the first instance.

Rouchel is an older farming community, members that do and will require prompt medical care, an operational mobile phone service in this area can be the difference between an hour long drive to Scone to seek assistance or the ability to meet an ambulance while travelling and maintaining communication with the medical service.

The introduction of the NBN to Australia is a wonderful initiative, however we have yet to conquer the mobile tower in many areas. Technology advance quickly and often we forget to look after the needs of everyone. Rouchel will not be serviced by the NBN with fibre node but will rely on satellite connections along with the rest of the Shire of the Upper Hunter. We would hope not to be left behind again.

Could I please request that the situation in Rouchel is addressed and rectified.

Kind regards

James Burns
Councillor
Upper Hunter Shire