

3rd August 2018

2018 Regional Telecommunications Review Secretariat
Department of Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
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secretariat@rtirc.gov.au

Re: 2018 Regional Telecommunications Review

Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR) is the key strategic economic development agency for the Murraylands and Riverland region. We build alliances with many other organisations who are also seeking to improve the economic outcomes for our region.

Our role is to facilitate the efforts of all levels of government and the business community through advocacy, facilitation and delivery of economic development projects.

The Murraylands and Riverland spans 36,000 square kilometres, is home to 70,600 people and some 6,120 businesses. Our major economic output is primary production which accounts for 34% of our gross regional product and for contributed \$3.7 billion to the South Australian economy in 2017

The need for reliable telecommunications infrastructure is vital for the growth of our region. Our major industries are dependent on telecommunications to be able to perform their business operations and remain competitive in a national and international context. Although our region has seen an improvement with mobile coverage, with the installation of several mobile towers and two remaining Optus towers to be installed by the of 2018, there are still large gaps where there is little or no coverage at all.

Broadband has seen fixed wireless deployment in many towns with local business be able to access quality broadband. In saying this, there are many towns in our region that are still only receiving NBN via Skymuster satellite. We would like towns like Pinnaroo and Lameroo be able to have fixed wireless NBN rather than being reliant on Satellite, so that business growth can be leveraged.

We commissioned Optimi-Digital to produce an updated review of the regions mobile coverage and broadband. A copy of the review is attached for your consideration. The key recommendations we would like to bring to your attention includes the importance of continuing improvements in digital literacy for business, as well as the adoption of business technology incorporating smart farming, e-transport and digital enabled tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a paper in relation to the Regional Telecommunications Review and we look forward to its outcomes.

Yours Sincerely



Jo Podoliak
Chief Executive officer