

16 June 2017

**Subject: Domestic mobile roaming declaration inquiry Draft Decision**

I write in response to your recent inquiry and draft decision to not regulate mobile roaming, on behalf of the South West Business Association, T/A Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

For our business community, mobile telecommunications are critical to the social and economic prosperity of the Bunbury Geographe region. We have many blackspots outside our main population areas that are hugely important for the economic growth of the area through agriculture, horticulture and tourism activities, as well as attracting people to live in the area for lifestyle choice.

Through the current regulatory regime that has been supported by the ACCC's draft decision, we are seeing the progressive investment in rural coverage. This would not continue if the competitive advantage was removed that encourages investment in commercially unviable areas.

It is critical that mobile phone providers continue to invest in their rural networks on both a standalone basis and as co-investment partners with Governments.

I note that the ACCC has proposed several alternative policy and regulatory measures for further consideration aimed at providing improved outcomes for regional mobile customers. Please ensure that any final decisions do not put at risk businesses and consumers in regional locations, and that they not be impacted by removing competitive advantage, which will ultimately impact regional investment.

Yours sincerely



Ray Philp  
CEO

*Chamber Gold Members*

