



Our Ref: D-17-38806
Your Ref:
File Ref: IT/3/0001
Enquiries: Mayor Shane Van Styn

8 June 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

SUBMISSION TO THE DOMESTIC MOBILE ROAMING DECLARATION INQUIRY

On behalf of the City of Geraldton WA we are very pleased to see your recent draft decision to not regulate mobile roaming and hope this will be the final outcome.

For our local government organisation, which represents residential and business ratepayers in suburban, rural and remote areas, we are in agreement that your draft decision paper clearly articulates that regulated mobile roaming would be the wrong decision for our constituents and place a huge risk on future network investment whilst at the same time potentially increasing mobile costs.

I recently attended the launch of a new mobile base station in Drummond Cove, to the north of the City, where one Telco has now introduced a 4GX service to the local community. The expansion of the mobile network and towers, which cost many hundreds of thousands of dollars to build and operate, would be put at risk with the introduction of regulated mobile roaming.

When we dig a little deeper on who is pushing for regulated mobile roaming it is clear that only a very select few Telecommunication providers are seeking to gain market share without making their own investment in a market that is geographically challenging and is further limited with low revenue streams due to isolated and small numbers of potential consumers.

We assume that if there was enough revenue and a strong business case, then other Telco's would have invested in the infrastructure long ago and market forces would have taken care of this issue. We regularly have dealings with one Telco who has the capacity and appetite to invest – while the others rarely make contact. This says to us we should continue to let

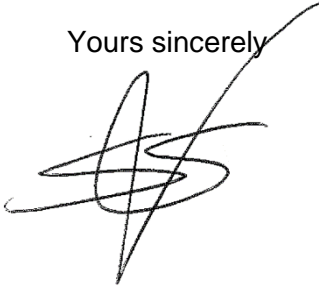


market forces determine the commitment and outcomes and your draft decision is on the right path.

Where a company is investing in WA's remote and regional areas to deliver a sustainable point of difference, why they should be targeted and penalised into sharing that advantage.

In closing, the City of Geraldton supports your draft decision and hope that it will be the final outcome to enable investment to continue in the provision of mobile coverage throughout our municipality.

Yours sincerely



Shane Van Styn
MAYOR