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21 November 2016

## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

### **DOMESTIC MOBILE ROAMING DECLARATION INQUIRY 2016**

I write in response to your current "Domestic Mobile Roaming Declaration Inquiry" on behalf of the City of Launceston.

Communities rely on mobile telecommunications infrastructure for social benefit and economic prosperity across our region in North East Tasmania.

In Tasmania, there are many blackspots and Telstra provides the most comprehensive network in the regional areas outside the larger cities and other networks are either less available or do not work as effectively.

Both Telstra and Vodafone are investing in the development of services to regional areas, with Vodafone installing additional towers in central Tasmania and Telstra expanding the capacity (Fibre) at Nabowla mobile base station to support the tourist hotspot Bridestowe Estate, and commitment to expand mobile capacity (fibre) and upgrade to 4GX at Derby. Telstra is also expanding its network capacity at King Island and Orford as well as building 14 new base stations under the Federal Black spot program including high cost sites at Nunamara and Targa. Telstra is also building 15 'small cell' mobile base stations across different communities across Tasmania.

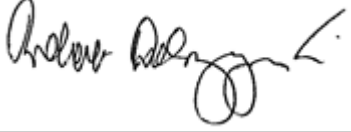
The current regulations in market today provide incentives for telecommunications companies to continue to expand infrastructure across Tasmania to accommodate new coverage demands and also to invest in new technologies to meet the growing expectations from Tasmanians and visitors to the State.

Whilst a roaming declaration may increase competition from service providers, increased regulation may also have unintended consequences by creating a disincentive to new infrastructure development and investment across Tasmania and may impact on the sort of infrastructure development identified above.

It is not possible to ascertain if a roaming declaration will impact negatively on further infrastructure development, but regional Tasmania should not be impacted by any adverse consequence as a result of changes to roaming regulation. The Commission should therefore investigate the situation carefully to ensure that any outcomes provide a net benefit in either or both mobile services or infrastructure development. Negative impacts could have significant consequences for regional development.

Should you require further detail of the City of Launceston's submission, please contact Economic Development Officer, Bruce Williams on 03 6323 3529.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Dobrzynski', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**Robert Dobrzynski**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**