



25 May, 2017

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Domestic Mobile Roaming Service Declaration Inquiry
By email: mobileroaminginquiry@acc.gov.au

Response to Draft Decision of Domestic Mobile Roaming Service Declaration Inquiry

The Committee for Gippsland appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's draft decision into domestic mobile roaming service declaration.

The Committee for Gippsland was established in 2011, and is a not for profit, independent organisation that aims to be a positive and informed voice for Gippsland. Sector neutral, the Committee for Gippsland comprises nearly 90 member organisations, including community groups, small businesses, and listed companies, power stations, university and TAFE. Industries the Committee for Gippsland's membership cover include agribusiness, transport, energy and resources, small business, manufacturing, tourism, ICT and telecommunications, professional services, higher education and many more.

The Committee for Gippsland supports a strong and competitive telecommunications market that drives future investment in infrastructure, new technology and extending network coverage. Any regulatory changes that deter mobile service providers from investing in infrastructure that would extend their network coverage is particularly detrimental to regions like Gippsland.

The Committee for Gippsland welcomes the draft decision of the ACCC not to regulate mobile roaming. The decision reflects input from our members that regulated roaming in a regional area like Gippsland would not promote or further the interests of consumers. We are additionally concerned that regulated roaming would have the potential to increase pricing.

A key priority for Gippsland is extending phone coverage to parts of the region that are still without reception and as an organisation we are mindful of any change that would present a risk to further investment in ongoing mobile coverage across Gippsland.

The Committee for Gippsland notes that the Mobile Black Spot Programme has already delivered increased coverage to many parts of Gippsland, and we encourage its continued proliferation. Improving digital connectivity and mobile phone reception across all parts of the region is a key priority for the Committee for Gippsland.

Feedback from many consumers and businesses across Gippsland is that they are already absorbing additional cost imposts in a number of areas, particularly energy bills, and the potential increase in telecommunications charges at this point of time would be especially unwelcome, which is a risk presented by regulated roaming.

Once again, the Committee for Gippsland appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's draft decision.

If you would like further information on any of the points addressed in this submission, please contact me on (03) 5623 3219.

Sincerely



Mary Aldred
Chief Executive Officer