Committee for Melbourne

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SUBJECT: Domestic Mobile Roaming Documentation Inquiry

Dear Sir / Madam,

I refer to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's draft decision of May 2017 not to declare a domestic mobile roaming service.

In our previous submission to the ACCC in November 2016, the Committee for Melbourne noted that Regulation of Mobile Roaming should not have the effect of creating complexity, or of increasing costs for providers and potentially prices for consumers, and should not undermine the competitive dynamic in the market.

Further we noted that due to the growing reliance on mobile data through the "Internet of things", mobile applications and creating Smart Cities, ACCC's draft decision inquiry should be aiming to provide the telecommunications industry with realistic and achievable methods to encourage ongoing investment in mobile infrastructure from all carriers.

We noted that mandating roaming may have the effect of acting as a disincentive to telecommunication carriers to invest in expansion of mobile networks, capacity, research and development. This in turn may have the consequence of being detrimental to attracting new business and industry to Melbourne.

Committee for Melbourne believes that the ACCC's May 2017 draft decision is the right one for rural and regional Australia. Once confirmed, it should help open the way for significant infrastructure investment (including mobile technology) by helping attract business and industry to Melbourne in knowing that they can transact commerce in metropolitan, regional and rural Australia.

We therefore encourage the ACCC to move swiftly to finalise the draft decision to alleviate industry uncertainly and unlock future investment.

Kind regards



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Martine Letts

CEO



Ideas to outcomes