



Country Women's Association of NSW

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

ABN 82 318 909 926

16 June 2016

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Sent via email: mobileroaminginquiry@accc.gov.au

To whom it may concern:

RE: Domestic mobile roaming declaration inquiry Draft Decision

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment to the mobile roaming inquiry. The CWA of NSW notes the ACCC's recommendation to not declare a domestic mobile roaming service. At this point in time, the CWA of NSW agrees with this decision.

In summary, our position arises as a result of our member's feedback that stresses the need to prioritise ongoing support and investment into regional communities by both government and private entities. We note that Telstra have, in the current regulatory environment, committed up to \$1 billion of investment flow to small towns and regional centres across the country over the next five years. Regardless of who the company is that promises such investments, the fact remains that these investments are crucial.

The digital age is well and truly upon us, but unfortunately, many of our country communities are not seeing the benefits. A lack of connectivity, particularly mobile coverage, results in barriers to growth for our farmers and small business operators as well as barriers to a quality education for our students; and barriers to health services for our entire community.

We are concerned that an introduction of wholesale mobile roaming could lead to a market environment that does not provide incentives for further investment into the rural areas of Australia. Whilst the CWA of NSW does not have specific policy on the roaming issue particularly, we do have a long standing position on the importance of investment and support for regional communities more broadly. We ask the ACCC to uphold their decision and further encourage investment from all network operators in regional, rural and remote areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Danica Leys
Chief Executive Officer