

To Whom It May Concern

ACCC Mobile Roaming Inquiry

The Burke Shire has been the recent beneficiary of the Mobile Black Spot Program (Round 1) and of a co-investment partnership that has delivered fibre optic connectivity to Burketown, a vibrant but remote township in North West of Queensland.

The first program – a new mobile phone base station in Gregory – will deliver mobile connectivity to this township for the first time. The second project has delivered high-speed broadband, 4g mobile and public Wi-Fi capabilities to the township of Burke.

These projects represent new investment in core telecommunications infrastructure. This infrastructure is delivering and will continue to deliver new and improved mobile and Wi-Fi capabilities for government service providers, businesses, residents and those who travel through the Burke Shire.

There are more Shires and townships like Burke that require new infrastructure investments to deliver new telecommunications' capabilities that will ensure that remote and regional Australians do not fall victim to a digital divide. If a mobile roaming service is declared, there will be reduced incentives for mobile network operators to make these investments.

The Burke Shire believes in investments that expand and improve mobile coverage in remote and regional Australia and not in regulatory changes that have the potential to threaten such investments. In heading down a path toward Regulated Roaming, the ACCC has the potential to facilitate the demise of such investments and to exacerbate the digital divide between city and country.

For this reason, I am hopeful that the ACCC Roaming Enquiry will determine that the only appropriate approach to Regulated Roaming is to quash it.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Poole,
Deputy Mayor, Burke Shire Council

