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To: ACCC
From: Regional Stakeholder - The Halikos Group
Re: ACCC mobile roaming inquiry

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write on behalf of the Halikos Group in response to your current inquiry into mobile roaming.

Mobile telecommunications are critical to the social and economic prosperity of rural and regional Australia.

The most critical telecommunications issue for individuals, farms, businesses and communities is mobile coverage. We need more coverage and better coverage.

Whilst we currently have good coverage for the higher end of the population percentage, we do not have the same percentage cover for the land mass of Australia.

In otherwords, we are providing excellent mobile coverage for cities and highly populated regional centres and not rural and outback Australia, where the cover is most needed. In these areas of poor or no coverage, people cannot catch a bus or even drive to the doctors or the supermarket or their friends house – they are isolated and in desperate need of mobile coverage, far greater than they currently have.

In your deliberations on mobile roaming it is critical that the incentive for telecommunication organisations to invest in mobile infrastructure be maintained – compared to other countries in the world, we are paying a premium to our mobile providers for this to happen.

If this incentive is diminished or destroyed, it would be a disaster for rural and regional Australia.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Brunker', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Brunker
Chief Financial Officer