

25 November 2016

## Submission to the ACCC Mobile roaming inquiry

[mobileroaminginquiry@acc.gov.au](mailto:mobileroaminginquiry@acc.gov.au)

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV) represent a group of people whose families and predecessors have grazed their cattle and lived and worked the Victorian High Country dating back to 1834.

As modern stalwarts of the High Country we now heavily rely on mobile phone coverage in remote locations daily. Over the years, we have been at the forefront of battling large bushfires and involved in search and rescue and other emergencies. The necessity to access mobile voice and data coverage has been vital in these situations. Mobile technology in the Alpine areas has become the lifeline for many other threatening situations facing our families and visitors.

Across the High Country we see a high influx of additional tourism due to the snow fields, four-wheel driving and other recreational activities. This additional traffic to our region provides great flow on benefits to the local communities but it does impact on the capacity of existing mobile networks.

Ongoing investment in coverage and capacity is vital for these areas and we would have grave concerns if any decisions were made by the regulators that would affect such potential investment.

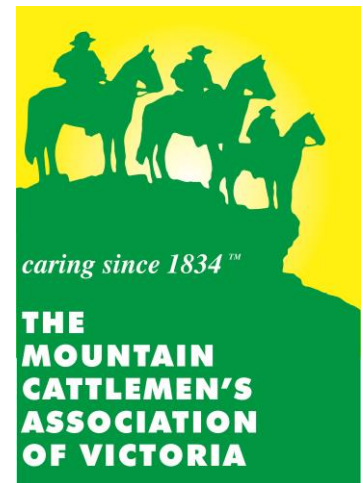
It is critical that any changes to mobile regulations include incentives for all telecommunications carriers to continue to invest in regions like ours.

The proposed discussion paper outlines proposals that appear to create more complexity and would increase costs thus become a disincentive for carriers to continue their ongoing investment.

Please take serious consideration to the consequences of how regulated mobile roaming may have on our region and all regional and rural Australia.

Yours faithfully

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