The possible expansion of the UHF mobile network in the Macarthur area poses significant concerns. A large part of the rural area contains a significant number of rural properties, and the area is not covered by the current network. The Macarthur Council appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to this important inquiry.

Submission by Macarthur Council

ACCDC Domestic Mobile Reaching Declaration Inquiry 2016

The Secretary

30 November 2016

Macarthur Council

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General Manager

Respondence to be addressed to:
Dear General Manager,

I would like to bring to your attention the significant and challenging decisions that we need to make in order to ensure that the ACCC can resolve and enable determinations that will satisfy network access requirements.

Existing network access is provided to rural and remote customers under the Telecommunications Network Code, which is designed to ensure that network access is available to all customers, regardless of location. However, the ACCC has identified that network access in rural and remote areas is not sufficient to meet the needs of customers, particularly in terms of capacity and reliability.

In summary, the challenge is to ensure that investment by telcos in future expansion of network access

Circumstances:

In rural and remote areas, particularly those that are served by mobile towers, the need for reliable and high-quality network access is critical. Some of these areas are already covered by mobile networks, but the quality of service is not sufficient to meet the needs of customers.

Conversely, the ACCC is considering new measures to improve mobile coverage in rural and remote areas.

Most significant of all, the spread of mobile networks across the country is likely to improve the quality of service in these areas. However, the ACCC needs to ensure that these networks provide adequate capacity and reliability.

On the other hand, it is unsurprising to expect that all these networks will be utilized to the fullest extent possible.

Telesco has invested over $2 billion in rural and remote areas, utilizing the 3G network.

Telesco’s performance against the Telecommunications Network Code will be of interest, even though Telesco is responsible for the only network which is likely to be expanded.

Further network investment in the Murray-Darling Basin area is expected to improve the quality of service in rural and remote areas, which is critical to the agricultural sector. Telesco, in conjunction with other mobile network providers, is expected to invest in new network infrastructure to improve coverage and reliability.

In rural and remote areas, the Murray-Darling Basin is a key area for agricultural production, and improving network access is critical to supporting the sector.

The ACCC has an important role in ensuring that network access is available to all customers, regardless of location.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Earle, Manager