

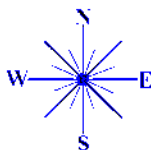
CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

CONSTITUTED 1 MAY 1959

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9 June 2022

Dear ACCC Merger Authorisations Team

Re: MA1000021 – Telstra TPG Spectrum Transaction – submission

Central Darling Shire is located in the Far West NSW Regional Area with a total population of approximately 2,000 residents across geographical spread of circa 53,500 square kilometres.

As there is very limited fixed line infrastructure across the shire currently in place, the Shire population is predominately confined to either satellite and/or mobile based services/products for both their private and business telecommunication and IT requirements.

Further, as significant capital investment is required to improve the fixed line infrastructure network to provide similar service capability/capacity levels and product options available in metro and outer metro areas, that scenario is unlikely to change significantly in the foreseeable future.

We are also aware that per the current “MA1000021 – Telstra TPG Spectrum Transaction – submission” to the ACCC which is focused on the expanded provision of mobile services/products -

- Telstra has entered into an agreement with TPG, for 10 years with two 5 year options for TPG to extend and provide TPG access to Telstra’s 4G and 5G radio access network in certain regional and urban fringe areas and this form of infrastructure sharing is called a Multi-operator Core Network (MOCN) because, while sharing a common radio footprint in the MOCN area, each operator has its own core network from they will independently manage their products, pricing, and customers.
- Under the Telstra-TPG MOCN, TPG is able to build its own 4G and 5G products, offer its own pricing and support its own customers as if the network was TPG’s own network
- This would in turn provide many regional and rural areas with a greater choice of 4G/5G networks, as customers have in urban areas
- This MOCN compares to the current Optus roaming arrangements on which TPG relies for coverage outside its network area
- The Telstra-TPG MOCN pools the existing unused TPG spectrum on the existing Telstra network to improve the depth and consistency of existing coverage needed to support the increasing shift towards a digital environment.

Consequently, Central Darling Shire Council would fully support any private and/or government backed initiatives which will offer to both Shire based consumer and business customers –

- More service provider choices
- Better, more robust, and reliable coverage with enhanced service capacity and capability across the whole Shire
- More competitive pricing for telecommunication/IT services/products.

Your sincerely



Greg Hill

General Manager

Central Darling Shire Council