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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 June 2022 2:39 PM  
**To:** Merger Authorisations  
**Cc:** Costa Cominos  
**Subject:** Submission re: Telstra/ TPG Merger

I, Stephen Hains, wish to make a submission about the proposed merger between Telstra and TPG.

I am the Franchisee of Yes Optus Port Lincoln. I opened this business in 2011 and service customers from a very large area of Regional South Australia. Port Lincoln is 650KM from Adelaide and my store is the only non Telstra phone shop on Eyre Peninsular.

Prior to me establishing this business, people in this area had no choice in their telecommunications requirements, there was only Telstra. With Optus building a mobile network across Eyre Peninsular and the opening of Optus Port Lincoln there became a real choice for consumers and competition in the market.

I am deeply concerned that the proposed merger and subsequent massive imbalance of spectrum ownership would result in dominance once again of Telstra in Region Australia. This would lead to the unviability of other carriers to spend capital on network improvements and expanded coverage and would take any incentive away for Telstra to do the same. Ultimately it could lead to the demise of my business and the unemployment of my 5 staff.

As I've set out above, I strongly urge you to reject this proposal to preserve competition, maximum service levels and choice for consumers in Regional Australia.

Yours sincerely,

**Stephen Hains**

**Yes Optus Port Lincoln  
5/38 Edinburgh Street  
Port Lincoln SA 5606**

[REDACTED]