



20 June 2022

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Merger Authorisations Branch
23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601

Mergers Authorisation Branch ACCC

Re: Authorisation for proposed Telstra/TPG spectrum sharing in regional Australia – interested party consultation

WAFarmers represents the broadacre farmers in Western Australia. Our membership covers the Southern West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern Regions of the State including 70 towns and over 5000 farming properties.

Western Australian farmers are becoming increasingly reliant on telecommunications linked technology to run and operate their businesses. The mobile network is extensively used to transfer mass amounts of data from the plethora of complex machinery on large scale properties.

The take up of agtech depends on high quality connectivity on farms and along the key supply chains to port which WA farmers, particularly our world class broadacre farmers.

As outlined in the recent Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC) report, congestion in the mobile network is an issue impacting regional and remote communities and in particular farm businesses.

Our understanding of the sharing arrangement proposed is that it allows TPG to compete by offering innovation and services to customers, which includes IoT services.

With the demand for digital technology growing, WA Farmers is supportive of the proposed Telstra-TPG Multi-Operator Core Network (MOCN) Agreement, because it will deliver choice of provider within the area covered under the Agreement.

In addition the pooling of existing unused TPG spectrum it will allow both TPG and Telstra to benefit from the expanded network coverage on the Telstra network. This in turn will provide a more competitive consumer environment which is good for our members.



Trevor Whittington
Chief Executive Officer
WAFarmers

Address: Unit 3, 14 Brodie Hall Drive, Bentley WA 6102 // PO Box: PO Box 1105, Bentley DC WA 6983

Tel: (08) 9486 2100 // Email: reception@wafarmers.org.au

www.wafarmers.org.au