
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 June 2022 8:37 AM
To: Merger Authorisations
Subject: TPG/Telstra network merger

To Whom it May Concern

My name is Mick Dempster from Horsham Victoria and have been in business for 11 years providing choice to customers in the Wimmera Mallee region of Western Victoria. From when we first opened in 2011, I have seen significant investment in the mobile network with more than 15 new mobile sites commissioned, which has paved the way for consumers to be able to move providers and maintain a reliable and safe telecommunications connection.

Regional customers have for so long had no real choice when it came to telecommunication providers until Optus invested significantly in regional to a point where in many cases, Optus has a superior network to that of Telstra which gives consumers real choice.

The merger between Telstra and TPG will not lead to a better outcome for consumers, it will in fact create the opposite. Telstra will have a monopoly on regional consumers, it will drive prices up as Optus commercial viability in regional will no longer be there which leads to a reduction in investment which is not in the best interests of consumers. With reduced competition from Optus, there is no competitive need for Telstra to maintain and improve their network.

All this will do in the end is increase Telstra's stranglehold on the regional market, consumers will be forced to subscribe to the Telstra network which will inevitably lead to price increases as there will be no competitors in the market. The end result could see significant job losses as businesses associated to the Optus network will no longer be viable and forced into closure.

I want to continue to serve my community by providing real choice for them in sales and customer experience and challenging Telstra, the dominant market leader. I urge you to reject the Telstra/TPG proposal in the best interests of customers in regional Australia

Mick Dempster
Franchisee | Yes Optus Horsham

[REDACTED]
49 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400



Follow us