To:         ACCC

Re:         ACCC mobile roaming inquiry

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write in response to your current inquiry into mobile roaming on behalf of the business sector of Central Australia.  This region covers over 1,000,000 square kilometres.

The Chamber of Commerce NT is the peak body representing over 1400 businesses in the Northern Territory.

Communications and in particular ‘mobile communications’ is now an essential commodity and is vital for our private use and absolutely essential in today’s modern business climate.

Alice Springs is a service centre for over 260 Aboriginal communities not including remote cattle stations.

Mobile telecommunications are critical to the social and economic prosperity of rural and regional Australia.

The most critical telecommunications issue for individuals, stations, businesses and communities is mobile coverage. We need more coverage and better coverage. Communities and station owners rely on mobile coverage for health issues, major accidents as well as communicating with staff that are travelling in remote areas.

In your deliberations on mobile roaming it is critical that the incentive for telecommunication organisations to invest in mobile infrastructure be maintained.

If this incentive is diminished or destroyed, it would be a disaster for rural and regional Australia.

Kind regards,

Kay Eade

Executive Officer

Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory

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