SUBMISSION TO MOBILE ROAMING INQUIRY

Prepared by Gippsland Regional Executive Forum

21 November, 2016

The Regional Executive Forum representing the members of Gippsland organisations, wish to reinforce the submission made by the Champions of the Bush ( dated 15 November, 2016 )

For our all businesses across Gippsland, ongoing investment in mobile coverage and technology advancements is crucial to effectively operate in an ever increasing and competitive business environment. business. Gippsland has a large geographic footprint and our local businesses travel the depth and breadths of the region.

Our Forum members comprise a wide range of industry sectors including transport, bus services , food production and processing, manufacturing, health, building & construction, finance, marketing, communication, insurance , electrical contractors, banking, air craft manufacture , specialised staff recruitment, and electricity generation . For all these businesses the provision of good quality voice and data is critical, as they look to utilise new mobile application solutions that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their services.

If mobile roaming were to be regulated we strongly contend that the ongoing investment in regional mobile infrastructure would be impacted and the focus for Telecommunication Carriers would be to focus on the metro markets where there is more population. It is absolutely critical for long term national and state interests that ongoing investment in regional mobile infrastructure is maintained , and indeed increased , as this outcome will support and encourage ongoing business investment in regions like Gippsland. We also emphasise that accelerated regional growth and investment in essential to reduce the population and congestion growth pressures on Melbourne .

We are deeply concerned that the regulation of mobile roaming will inhibit further investment in and advancement of the mobile coverage network in rural and regional areas and greatly disadvantage rural and regional business.

The Gippsland Regional Executive Forum members would be pleased to provide any further information which may be required.

Yours sincerely,

John Mitchell

Chair,

Gippsland Regional Executive Forum

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