Friday 25 November 2016

**Submission to the ACCC domestic mobile roaming declaration inquiry**

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to emphasis the critical need for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to fully take into account the implications of regulating mobile roaming for rural and remote Australia.

Mobile coverage throughout rural and regional Australia, particularly in our electorate of Mount Isa, is one of the most important issues for the constituency. It is also imperative that there is continued investment in the advancement of mobile coverage to improve the standard of living and safety in communities, along with the development of industry. Economic development by way of jobs and business, tourism and community resilience is also underpinned by sound mobile coverage.

I would support any telco committed to investing in rural and regional Australia. I also urge that the ability of telcos to continue to invest in rural and regional Australia is fully understood and not compromised.

There have been some significant improvements in mobile coverage in our electorate, but there is still a long way to go to ensure coverage that is equitable to our coastal counterparts. Any decision by the ACCC must reflect the need to invest and expand mobile coverage in rural and regional Australia.

It is also imperative that the Universal Service Obligation (USO) remains enshrined in policy, regardless of the outcome of this inquiry. In closing, I urge the ACCC Inquiry to be mindful of the need to bridge the divide between major cities and rural and regional Australia when determining the best way forward for mobile coverage.

Yours sincerely,

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**Rob Katter**

Member for Mount Isa