

---

**From:** Nicola Pero [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 11 June 2022 2:55 PM  
**To:** Merger Authorisations  
**Subject:** Food & Fibre Gippsland : MA 1000021 - Telstra TPG Spectrum Transaction - submission

To whom it may concern:

Food & Fibre Gippsland is the peak representative body for the food and fibre value chain – a sector contributing \$7B annually to Gippsland’s regional GRP. Our organisation has comprehensive engagement and connectivity with growers, producers, on-farm operators; manufacturers and processors; supply companies and transport operators; exporters; retailers; Local Government Authorities and regulatory bodies to highlight just a few stakeholder areas. We are viewed as a trusted entity to the industry.

We write to extend our full support to the Telstra-TPG MOCN for regional and rural Australia. Gippsland (a region the size of The Netherlands, at 41,550sqm) is diverse and has exposure to considerable black spots across the region. This is holding back our food and fibre growth through challenges to innovate due to bandwidth required for IoT; opportunities for more workplace-based training requiring bandwidth enhancement; overall digital literacy advancement which gets compromised with connectivity and/or congestion challenges; and overall agtech growth and sustainability to drive our region forward. Access to 5G is imperative for our region, which is already a major entity in Australia’s food and fibre production, to sustainably grow and rely on the services to support our contribution to lifting the value of Australian agriculture to \$100B by 2030, together with doubling the value-add production in the sector, also by 2030. Whether it’s aspects such as water pumps, soil moisture probes, cattle monitors, dairy health, traceability systems for export – they are all reliant on IoT, therefore reliant on expanded 5G services.

Infrastructure sharing such as the MOCN is smart, importantly puts industry first, addresses congestion and access challenges, and will contribute to digital security and access reliance confidence by our food and fibre value chain producers, growers, processors, manufacturers, artisan operators, technology providers, trainers and educators, and exporters.

We urge your positive consideration and ensuing approval for the MOCN to proceed – we must put the needs of our producers in rural and regional Australia as a priority and assist them to achieve goals and targets and engage in the roadmaps nationally.

Thank you and kind regards,

Nicola Pero  
Chief Executive Officer  
M: [REDACTED]



PO Box 857, Warragul Vic 3820

[www.foodandfibregippsland.com.au](http://www.foodandfibregippsland.com.au)

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

*Our working days/times may differ – I respect your preferred working times for any response.*