
From: Mark Renegar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 7:29 AM
To: Merger Authorisations
Subject: Mark Renegar: MA1000021 – submission

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to make a submission regarding the proposed network sharing arrangement between Telstra and TPG.

As a regional Australian living in northern Victoria and spending most of my time in country and rural areas and relying heavily on mobile network coverage to do my job I am currently only able to use Telstra.

In around 2020 Telstra dramatically increased their plan pricing and the plan that I was on was discontinued. This resulted in an increase from \$30 per month to \$58 per month, an increase of nearly 50%.

I moved my phone service to Vodafone (TPG) in an attempt to save money and found the coverage in remote areas to be inadequate for my needs with far too many black spots. I was more often without coverage than with.

Since no other provider than Telstra could match or compete with the coverage in remote and rural areas I was forced to return to them and pay the higher price.

Allowing the proposed network sharing arrangement will in my view dramatically increase competition in regional Australia and for the first time ever give Australians in regional areas the option of another carrier. This will drive down prices and take away the monopoly that Telstra currently enjoys with regional Australia.

Ruling against the agreement will allow Telstra to continue to charge whatever they like knowing that many Australians such as myself have no other viable option.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission

Yours Sincerely

Mark Renegar