

14 June 2022

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Attn: Merger Authorisations Department

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Via email: mergerauthorisations@accc.gov.au

To Whom it May Concern

**MA1000021 – Telstra TPG Spectrum Transaction – submission**

Digital connectivity and the increasingly inequitable regional – metropolitan digital divide is of great concern to all six members of the Murray River Group of Councils.

In our region across northern Victoria, mobile phone black spots, network capacity issues and the low level of provider competition combine resulting in sometimes frustratingly poor levels of mobile phone service.

This affects our communities in many ways – from limiting personal communication, hampering emergency services, to hindering point-of-sale and other technology for tourism and retail operators. Health care and education providers are affected as they increasingly rely on mobile phone networks to provide high quality services to regional and remote residents.

The proposed agreement by Telstra and TPG as we understand it would increase competition in the regional mobile phone market which would be beneficial to our communities as it would incentivise investment in infrastructure and improved services.

We understand it would also increase network capacity at peak times when the mobile phone network in some of our towns struggles to keep up with demand.

Both of these outcomes are desirable and for these reasons, the MRGC supports this proposal.

Should you wish to discuss the contents of this letter or if you require further information please contact our Executive Officer, Geoff Turner on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**CR LIBRO MUSTICA  
CHAIR**

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