From:	Warwick Bowen
Sent:	Monday, 3 October 2022 10:54 PM
To:	Merger Authorisations
Subject:	Support for Telstra/TPG Telecom Limited proposed spectrum sharing

Dear merger authority,

I would like to respond to the ACCC's Statement of Preliminary Views regarding the Telstra/TPG spectrum sharing proposal.

I am in support of the proposal, and consider it of significant benefit to both regional and urban communities.

I make the submission as a private individual, living in Brisbane, but spending substantial time in the surrounding national parks (such as Mount Barney and Girrawean National Parks) as a member of Brisbane Bush Walkers. Currently, only Telstra provides any meaningful coverage. This means that recreational hikers, climbers, FWDers, fishers and others who frequent these popular areas have only Telstra as an option. There is no competition.

From my observations the coverage that is provided by other telcos (which is essentially non-existent) has not improved in decades. I think that a change in settings is needed for this to change going into the future.

This is a major problem: some prepared and experienced hikers/climbers/fishers/FWDers may choose to use Telstra (with the detriment of lack of choice). However, most people instead go into the mountains without adequate coverage. This is a real safety risk. Life/health endangering injury's are common, and rapid response is key to minimising harm. The risk is increasing rapidly, with an explosion of (generally inexperienced) people using the National Parks since COVID (see eg https://amp.abc.net.au/article/101371144).

As I see it, the proposed sharing agreement would be effective in mitigating the problem, both improving safety by increasing the proportion of Park visitors who have coverage, and increasing choice/competition. I expect that similar benefits will exist for national parks and remote/regional areas across Australia.

Happy to provide more thoughts/info as needed.

I hope you decide to ratify the proposal.

Regards,

Warwick Bowen

Sent from mobile device, please forgive typos.