

16 June 2017

To: The Secretariat
ACCC Domestic Mobile Roaming Declaration Inquiry

From: Canberra Business Chamber and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation

Re: Draft decision: ACCC Mobile Roaming Inquiry

The Canberra Business Chamber and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO) support the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) draft decision not to declare a domestic mobile roaming service.

This draft decision, if ratified, will work to mitigate future disincentives for Telstra and other mobile network operators to further invest in regional Australia. This draft decision is particularly significant considering the ACCC's finding that declaration of a roaming service 'may lead to reductions in the incentive for mobile network operators to invest in improved network coverage and upgrades in regional, rural and remote areas in the future'.

Together, the Canberra Business Chamber represent 5000 members directly and indirectly in the ACT and surrounding NSW commercial centres and eight (8) Councils across South East NSW.

This region produces and supports a wide range of primary industries as well as tourism, health, education, public administration and construction sectors. The regions Gross Regional Product is estimated at \$9.67 billion, representing 1.8% of the State's Gross State Product (GSP). The region has 76,634 jobs, with 24,832 businesses.

It needs to be recognised that businesses, as well as local and regional communities, value mobile coverage as well as investment in new infrastructure and technologies which drive employment opportunities in these areas.

The Canberra Business Chamber and CBRJO thank the ACCC for the opportunity to contribute to the Domestic Mobile Roaming Declaration Inquiry and urge the ACCC to continue to incentivise technology and infrastructure investment in regional areas and across Australia more broadly.

Yours faithfully



Robyn Hendry

Chief Executive Officer

Canberra Business Chamber



Cr Rowena Abbey

Chair

Canberra Region Joint Organisation