



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Office of Best Practice Regulation

Reference: 22914  
Telephone: 6271 5827  
e-mail: [helpdesk-OBPR@pmc.gov.au](mailto:helpdesk-OBPR@pmc.gov.au)

Mr Philip Mason  
Assistant Secretary, USO Taskforce  
Market Reform Division  
Department of Communications and the Arts

Dear Mr Mason

**Regulation Impact Statement – Second-Pass Final Assessment –  
Telecommunications Universal Service Guarantee**

Thank you for forwarding a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) examining the Telecommunications Universal Service Guarantee to the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) for second-pass final assessment. The OBPR received the final RIS on 25 October 2018.

The OBPR's final assessment is that the Department of Communications and the Arts is compliant with the Government's requirements. The RIS clearly describes the problem and the underlying policy objectives and enables the reader to easily understand the trade-offs represented by the options. Judgements made by the Department are explained and arguments are well supported by evidence informed by extensive consultation and market data. In particular, we note the rigorous explanation of the rationale for diverging from the Productivity Commission's recommendations.

The level of analysis in the RIS is commensurate with the problem, in line with best practice. The RIS may now be provided to the decision maker to inform a final decision.

We would appreciate you advising us when a final decision on this proposal has been announced and forwarding us a copy of the RIS in a form meeting the Government's accessibility requirements, noting some financial figures in the RIS are expected to be redacted due to commercial sensitivities and the need to protect the Commonwealth's future negotiating position.

The OBPR's reference number for this matter is 22914. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jason Lange  
Executive Director  
26 October 2018