



Australian Government
**Telecommunications Universal
Service Management Agency**

Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Dear Ms McDonald,

Submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Committee inquiry into Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014 and Telecommunications (Industry Levy) Amendment Bill 2014

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Committee to our former Chair dated 16 February 2015 inviting the Agency to provide a written submission to this inquiry.

The Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA) is currently responsible for the administration of the TUSMA Agreement on behalf of the Commonwealth. The Agreement provides contractual arrangements for the delivery of a number of public interest services including the Universal Service Obligation for standard telephone services and payphones and the Emergency Call Service.

The TUSMA Agreement also provides for arrangements relating to the migration of public interest services including

- communications to inform voice only customers about the impending disconnection of the copper network in their area;
- reasonable connection costs to allow eligible voice only customers to connect to the NBN; and
- research to support the migration of public alarm and traffic lights to the NBN (noting that these provisions have not yet been utilised).

TUSMA notes the Committee's interest in the impact of the amendments to the TUSMA Agreement which was executed between the Commonwealth and Telstra in December 2014.

TUSMA worked co-operatively with the Department of Communications to negotiate the amendments to the TUSMA Agreement which were made in December 2014. The changes to the TUSMA Agreement will facilitate the integration of TUSMA's functions into the Department of Communications and the move to the NBN Multi Technology Mix model. Additional changes were also made to the TUSMA Agreement that were operational in nature, to address issues encountered by both parties in administering the Agreement.

TUSMA does not believe the amendments made to the TUSMA Agreement will have a material impact on the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014 or the Telecommunications (Industry Levy) Amendment Bill 2014 or the operation of either of those bills.

I trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Kind regards

Kelly Mudford
Acting Chief Executive Officer