

The Traprocket

Edition No 6 – 22nd February 2023

Date Claimer: Meeting on Friday 28th April 2023

(venue to be confirmed) The theme of the meeting will be “How Major Projects might Impact Sustainable Farming in the Traprock”. We are confident that we will have some interesting speakers to address this very important concern. More information to follow.

Donation:

Traprock have made a donation to the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation for their cancer ward. This was in recognition of the excellent care Tom Graham and his family experienced there. Tom Graham was the founder and inaugural President of Traprock Wool. His vision, energy and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the achievements of what is now the Traprock Group.

Communication Report from Sarah:

Round 6 – Improving Mobile Coverage

The improving Mobile Coverage Round (IMCR) of the MBSP is implementing the Governments commitments to improve mobile coverage and quality of service at 54 target locations across rural, regional and remote Australia.

As well as improving mobile coverage and quality of service for regional communities, funded solutions under the IMCR will improve mobile coverage on a number of major regional highways.

On 2nd February 2023 the Government announced the opening of the applications for the IMCR. The IMCR will deliver funding to extend and improve mobile phone coverage and competition in regional and remote Australia, by co-funding new or upgraded telecommunications infrastructure in 54 target locations. Up to \$40 million (GST exclusive) will be available for the IMCR.

Applications for funding under the IMCR are open to Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers. Applications close **5pm AEDT Thursday 13th April 2023.**

It looks like they have already got their target locations with Qld getting 4 out of 54 sites. NSW has the bulk of the locations with 27.

Starlink aims for global mobile phone service after 2023. SpaceX started launching Starlink satellites in 2019. As of December 2022, Starlink consists of over 3300 mass produced small satellites in low earth orbit. 51 new satellites were put into orbit a few days ago. T-Mobile says it's getting rid of mobile dead zones, thanks to a new partnership with SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet.

With their “Coverage Above and Beyond” setup, mobile phones could connect to satellites and use a slice of a connection providing around 2 to 4 megabits per second connection (total) across a given coverage area. That connection should be enough to let you text, send MMS message and even use “select messaging apps” whenever you have a clear view of the sky, even if there's no traditional service available.

Operators of messaging apps like WhatsApp or iMessage will need to work with T-Mobile and Starlink for their services to recognize the satellite connection and work with it once it launches. It appears that it will be launched in the US first and doesn't mention Aust yet so we might be waiting a while. Starlink has put an open invite to telcos around the world to collaborate on the venture. So far Telstra, Optus and TPG haven't expressed a firm desire to partner with Starlink but they haven't ruled it out. Telstra have signed a sixteen and half year deal with satellite provided Viasat to build and manage ground infrastructure for it's upcoming constellation. This doesn't prevent them from partnering with Starlink but IMO sounds doubtful.

Wild Dogs:

Having spoken some of the people in the areas of the Traprock where wild dogs are more susceptible, it is quite disappointing to hear comments such as “haven't seen dogs in these numbers for a long time or most dogs I've seen in seventeen years”. These comments apply to inside and outside cluster fencing areas. My understanding is that these sightings have been confirmed in person and on cameras. I would have thought that this a great opportunity for all neighbours to get together to try and combat this new onslaught of dogs. No one person can be expected to deal with the problem. Good luck.

Any ideas for content of your newsletter? Feedback would be most welcome.

Thought for the day:

Originality is the fine art of remembering what you hear but forgetting where you heard it.

Till next time.

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Stuart Goodrich - Editor

