

Letter to the Editor

7th May 2007

The recent publicity regarding the new Telstra Next G network would lead all Tasmanians to believe that this service is not only going to provide enhanced mobile phone coverage than the current CDMA service, but that it is already providing a superior service. The advertising regarding this service is clearly misleading, as there are many areas in regional Tasmania where Next G does not provide a reliable service in areas where CDMA currently does.

It is also inappropriate that some retailers and providers are actively encouraging CDMA users in rural and remote areas of Tasmania to make the change from their functioning CDMA service to purchase new Next G phones that provide little or no coverage, until the Next G service is improved.

Telstra has requested people inform them of where these areas of poor or no reception are and I certainly encourage all who experience problems to do this. As the CDMA service is to be turned off early next year, I also suggest the Federal Government Members and candidates in the upcoming election, have a good hard look at this issue. This issue is not only about communication, but also safety and security for all Tasmanians, not just those who live in urban and metropolitan areas.

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