

# Rural telecommunications

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# Telstra mobile network – coverage has worsened...

- New phones are unsuited to low signal environments
- Network data capacity under pressure – 30% increase every year
- Major disruption from the 3G to 5G upgrade
- 5G is problematic for rural users



# Calling over internet

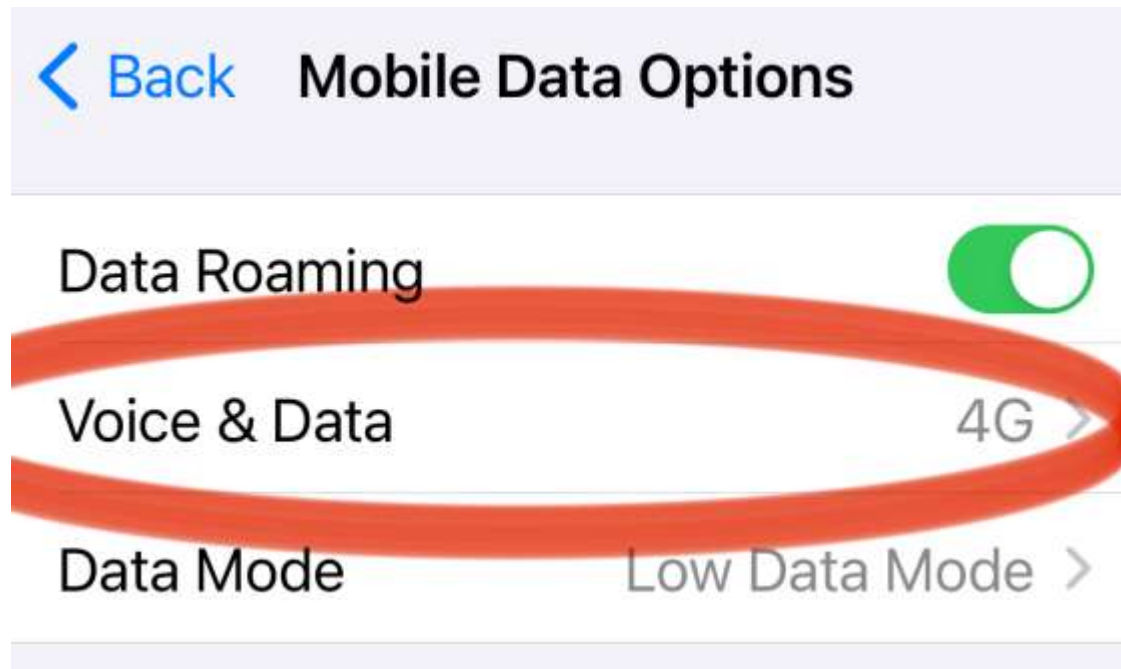
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- Improve calling at home/office coverage by calling over wifi networks
- Skymuster = NO
- Starlink = YES
- NBN fixed wireless = if you have access
- Mobile settings -> wifi calling ON and wifi assist OFF



# Coverage on farm or on the road

- Rural users – turn off 5G on your phone
- Settings -> mobile -> mobile data options -> voice and data -> 4G



# Mobile boosters

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- Performance is variable across units, tuning, and installation
- Best booster performance has been when units are locked to 3G
- 5G has not assisted – keep on 4G
- Boosters don't operate well with very weak signal



# What's coming...

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- The 3G network is being switched off late October (maybe)
- 4G will be our staple in rural Australia for another 5-10 years
- Our testing shows the 4G signal is present most places 3G is, but too weak for modern phones
- Satellite in motion can be a solution, but cost is prohibitive
- Satellite to handset? When? What functionality? What price?
- There are options for today





Questions