

MEDIA RELEASE – 30 March 2022

## Slattery welcomes Blackspots Budget and says “We can fix this now”

Serial entrepreneur and founder of HyperOne Bevan Slattery today welcomed the Federal Budget’s significant funding boost to expand regional mobile coverage and to build open-access infrastructure that improve competition for regional Australians.

Mr Slattery said regional Australia deserves better connectivity for where they live and work.

“Eradicating blackspots in regional communities is a problem we can fix right now,” he said.

“HyperOne is building Australia’s first national hyperscale fibre optic network with a dedicated off-ramp every 5kms for regional communities to connect enabling better mobile coverage across the country.

“It will make a real difference to regional communities and close the digital divide.”

Mr Slattery also welcomed the explicit call out in the Federal Budget for this new funding to be directed to open-access mobile coverage – boosting competition in regional areas.

“For years I have said that a carrier neutral fibre backbone is critical for growing jobs and opportunities in regional areas,” he said.

“Open-access means greater competition driving better connectivity for more Australians.”

HyperOne is a proudly independent, Australian owned, neutral backhaul network.

HyperOne is committed to enabling real competition in the telecommunications sector, increasing access and affordability to all who need it, especially those in regional areas.

Originally from Rockhampton, Mr Slattery knows why this issue is long past due to be fixed:

“I’ve seen over and over that too often fibre cables run under the properties of people living in regional areas, with no ability for them to hook into that fibre and get online.”

Mr Slattery said: "I look forward to speaking with the Federal Government about these important budget initiatives. HyperOne is here and ready to get to work to get regional Australians online."

**For further information:**

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