



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Simon Murray  
Mayor  
Armidale Regional Council  
PO Box 75A  
Armidale NSW 2350

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Murray

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Baldersleigh and Fig Tree Hill within the Local Government Area of Armidale have been identified as priority locations under this round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au** as soon as possible.

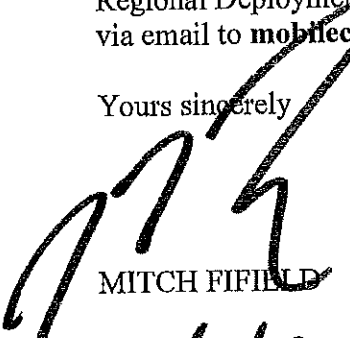
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au**.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Bill Ludwig  
Mayor  
Livingstone Shire Council  
PO Box 2292  
Yeppoon QLD 4703

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Ludwig

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Emu Park and Yeppoon within the Local Government Area of Livingstone have been identified as priority locations under this round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au** as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au**.

Yours sincerely



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15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr John Daw  
Shire President  
Shire of Mundaring  
7000 Great Eastern Highway  
Mundaring WA 6073

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Daw

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Chidlow and Parkerville within the Local Government Area of Mundaring have been identified as priority locations under this round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

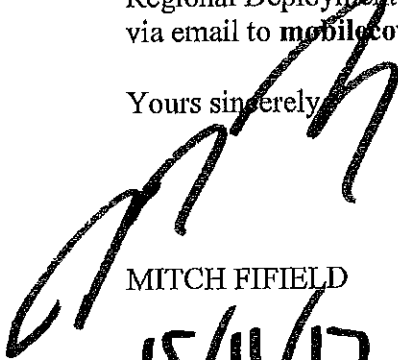
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Robby Walsh  
Mayor  
Waratah Wynyard Council  
PO Box 168  
Wynyard TAS 7325

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Walsh

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Yolla within the Local Government Area of Waratah/Wynyard has been identified as a priority location under this round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Graham Quirk  
Lord Mayor  
Brisbane City Council  
GPO Box 1434  
Brisbane QLD 4001

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear ~~Cr~~ *Graham* Quirk

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Belmont, Burbank, Karana Downs, Moreton Island and Mount Crosby within the Local Government Area of Brisbane have been identified as priority locations under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Gumdale has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues that were experienced have now been addressed by an upgrade to Telstra's 4G network.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au** as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au**.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Brett Owen  
Mayor  
Cardinia Shire Council  
PO Box 7  
Pakenham VIC 3810

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Owen

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Beaconsfield Upper, Gembrook and Guys Hill within the Local Government Area of Cardinia have been identified as priority locations under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Officer has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues that were experienced have now been addressed by an upgrade to Telstra's 4G network.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Jane Smith  
Mayor  
Central Coast Council  
49 Mann Street  
Gosford NSW 2250

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Smith

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Killcare and Wendoree Park within the Local Government Area of Central Coast have been identified as priority locations under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Spencer has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues experienced are being addressed by a base station funded under round 2 of the program.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower);  
or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Tom Tate  
Mayor  
City of Gold Coast  
PO Box 5042  
Gold Coast MC QLD 9729

## Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round

Dear ~~C~~ Tate *Tom*

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Cedar Creek within the Local Government Area of Gold Coast has been identified as a priority location under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Wongawallan has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues experienced are being addressed by a base station funded under round 2 of the program.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



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**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Mary Lyons-Buckett  
Mayor  
Hawkesbury City Council  
PO Box 146  
Windsor NSW 2756

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Lyons-Buckett

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Grose Vale within the Local Government Area of Hawkesbury has been identified as a priority location under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, St Albans has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues experienced are being addressed by a base station funded under round 2 of the program.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

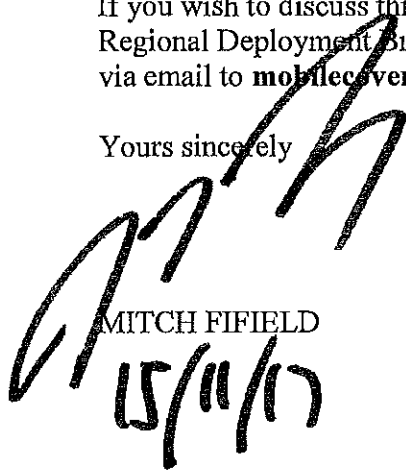
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Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

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Yours sincerely



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**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Luke Smith  
Mayor  
Logan City Council  
PO Box 3226  
Logan City DC QLD 4144

## Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round

Dear ~~C~~ Luke Smith

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Undullah/Flagstone within the Local Government Area of Logan has been identified as a priority location under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, New Beith/Greenbank and North Maclean have been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues that were experienced have now been addressed by both an upgrade to Telstra's 4G network and a new Vodafone base station.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

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Yours sincerely



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**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Allan Sutherland  
Mayor  
Moreton Bay Regional Council  
PO Box 159  
Caboolture QLD 4510

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Sutherland

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Beachmere, Cashmere, Dayboro, Donnybrook, Highvale, Ningi, Samford, Sandstone Point and Wights Mountain within the Local Government Area of Moreton Bay have been identified as priority locations under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Meldale has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues that were experienced have now been addressed by an upgrade to Telstra's 4G network.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Paul Antonio  
Mayor  
Toowoomba Regional Council  
PO Box 3021  
Toowoomba QLD 4350

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Antonio

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Meringandan within the Local Government Area of Toowoomba has been identified as a priority location under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Hampton has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues experienced are being addressed by a base station funded under round 2 of the program.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Jenny Hill  
Mayor  
Townsville City Council  
PO Box 1268  
Townsville QLD 4810

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Hill

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Toolakea within the Local Government Area of Townsville has been identified as a priority location under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Jensen has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues that were experienced have now been addressed by an upgrade to Telstra's 4G network.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au** as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au**.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Cr Noel Cliff  
Mayor  
Yarra Ranges Council  
PO Box 105  
Lilydale VIC 3140

## **Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Dear Cr Cliff

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market soon to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers.

I am pleased to advise that Chum Creek, Kalorama and Mount Evelyn within the Local Government Area of Yarra Ranges have been identified as priority locations under this round.

A number of locations originally announced under this round of the program have now had their issues addressed. In your area, Reefton has been removed from the list of priority locations as the mobile coverage issues experienced are being addressed by a base station funded under round 2 of the program.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;
- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;

- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au** as soon as possible.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to **mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au**.

Yours sincerely,



MITCH FIFIELD

15/11/17



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Keith Parkes  
Mayor  
Alexandrina Council  
PO Box 21  
Goolwa SA 5214

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Parkes

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Ashbourne within the Local Government Area of Alexandrina has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Nev Ferrier  
Mayor  
Banana Shire Council  
PO Box 412  
Biloela QLD 4715

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Ferrier

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Taroom within the Local Government Area of Banana has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

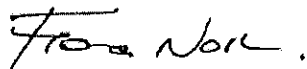
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Cynthia Axford  
Mayor  
District Council of Barunga West  
PO Box 3  
Port Broughton SA 5522

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Axford

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Bute/Alford within the Local Government Area of Barunga West has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

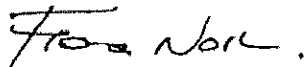
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Kristy McBain  
Mayor  
Bega Valley Shire Council  
PO Box 492  
Bega NSW 2550

11 October 2017

Dear Cr McBain

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Tathra within the Local Government Area of Bega Valley has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Mark Greenhill OAM  
Mayor  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked Bag 1005  
Katoomba NSW 2780

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Greenhill

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Megalong Valley and Yellow Rock within the Local Government Area of Blue Mountains have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Lyn McLaughlin  
Mayor  
Burdekin Shire Council  
PO Box 974  
Ayr QLD 4807

11 October 2017

Dear Cr McLaughlin

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Alva Beach within the Local Government Area of Burdekin has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Adrian Weston  
Mayor  
Shire of Campaspe  
PO Box 35  
Echuca VIC 3564

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Weston

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Gunbower within the Local Government Area of Campaspe has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

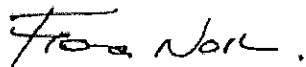
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Jan Bonde  
Mayor  
Central Coast Council  
PO Box 220  
Ulverstone TAS 7315

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Bonde

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Gunns Plains and Sulphur Creek within the Local Government Area of Central Coast have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

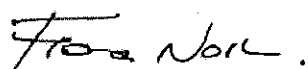
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Kerry Hayes  
Mayor  
Central Highlands Regional Council  
PO Box 21  
Emerald QLD 4720

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Hayes

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that the Dawson Developmental Road within the Local Government Area of Central Highlands has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

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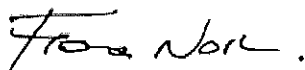
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Jim Simmons  
Mayor  
Clarence Valley Council  
Locked Bag 23  
Grafton NSW 2460

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Simmons

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Ramornie within the Local Government Area of Clarence Valley has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Chris Potter  
Mayor  
Colac-Otway Shire  
PO Box 283  
Colac VIC 3250

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Potter

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Birregurra within the Local Government Area of Colac-Otway has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

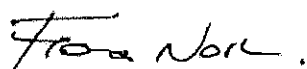
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Peter Scott  
Mayor  
Cook Shire Council  
PO Box 3  
Cooktown QLD 4895

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Scott

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Weipa within the Local Government Area of Cook has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

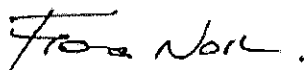
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Martyn Evans  
Mayor  
Derwent Valley Council  
PO Box 595  
New Norfolk TAS 7140

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Evans

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Lachlan within the Local Government Area of Derwent Valley has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

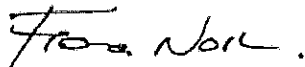
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Ald Steve Martin  
Mayor  
Devonport City Council  
PO Box 604  
Devonport TAS 7310

11 October 2017

Dear Ald Martin

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Devonport within the Local Government Area of Devonport has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

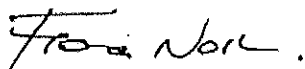
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Greg Howard  
Mayor  
Dorset Council  
PO Box 21  
Scottsdale TAS 7260

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Howard

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Musselroe Bay within the Local Government Area of Dorset has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Julia Leu  
Mayor  
Douglas Shire Council  
PO Box 723  
Mossman QLD 4873

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Leu

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Daintree/Cape Tribulation and Wonga Beach within the Local Government Area of Douglas have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

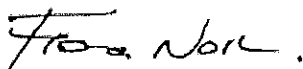
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Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Mr Shaun Chandler  
A/General Manager  
Dungog Shire Council  
PO Box 95  
Dungog NSW 2420

11 October 2017

Dear Mr Chandler

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Gresford within the Local Government Area of Dungog has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

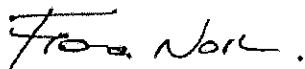
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Joe Rettino  
Mayor  
East Gippsland Shire Council  
PO Box 1618  
Bairnsdale VIC 3875

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Rettino

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Lake Tyers Beach within the Local Government Area of East Gippsland has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Liz Innes  
Mayor  
Eurobodalla Shire Council  
PO Box 99  
Moruya NSW 2537

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Innes

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that the Clyde Mountain within the Local Government Area of Eurobodalla has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Chris Loft  
Mayor  
Fraser Coast Regional Council  
PO Box 1943  
Hervey Bay QLD 4655

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Loft

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Pacific Haven and Poona within the Local Government Area of Fraser Coast have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

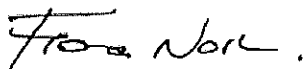
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Bridget Archer  
Mayor  
George Town Council  
PO Box 161  
George Town TAS 7253

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Archer

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Beechford/Lefroy within the Local Government Area of George Town has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Matt Burnett  
Mayor  
Gladstone Regional Council  
PO Box 29  
Gladstone QLD 4680

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Burnett

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Rules Beach within the Local Government Area of Gladstone has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

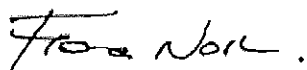
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Peter Matthey  
Mayor  
Regional Council of Goyder  
1 Market Square  
Burra SA 5417

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Matthey

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Robertstown within the Local Government Area of Goyder has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr John Coulton  
Mayor  
Gwydir Shire Council  
Locked Bag 5  
Bingara NSW 2404

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Coulton

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Copeton Dam within the Local Government Area of Gwydir has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Mick Curran  
Mayor  
Gympie Regional Council  
PO Box 155  
Gympie QLD 4570

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Curran

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that the Wide Bay Highway within the Local Government Area of Gympie has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Steve Russell  
Mayor  
Hornsby Shire Council  
PO Box 37  
Hornsby NSW 1630

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Russell

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Brooklyn/Dangar Island and Crosslands Reserve within the Local Government Area of Hornsby have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

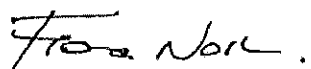
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Anne Baker  
Mayor  
Isaac Regional Council  
PO Box 97  
Moranbah QLD 4744

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Baker

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Clermont within the Local Government Area of Isaac has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Neil Smith  
Mayor  
Junee Shire Council  
PO Box 93  
Junee NSW 2663

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Smith

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Dirnaseer and Wantabadgery within the Local Government Area of Junee have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Andrew Waddell JP  
Mayor  
Council of the City of Kalamunda  
PO Box 42  
Kalamunda WA 6926

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Waddell

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Bickley within the Local Government Area of Kalamunda has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

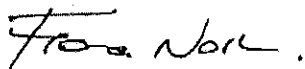
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Peter Clements  
Mayor  
Kangaroo Island Council  
PO Box 121  
Kingscote SA 5223

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Clements

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Gosse/Stokes Bay within the Local Government Area of Kangaroo Island has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Don Thwaites  
Mayor  
Kentish Council  
PO Box 63  
Sheffield TAS 7306

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Thwaites

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Wilmot within the Local Government Area of Kentish has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Greg Williamson  
Mayor  
Mackay Regional Council  
PO Box 41  
Mackay QLD 4740

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Williamson

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Koumala/Sarina Range, Mount Ossa and Yalboroo within the Local Government Area of Mackay have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Craig Perkins  
Mayor  
Meander Valley Council  
PO Box 102  
Westbury TAS 7303

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Perkins

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Blackstone Heights within the Local Government Area of Meander Valley has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

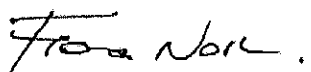
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Gary Cleveland  
Mayor  
Moir Shire Council  
PO Box 578  
Cobram VIC 3643

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Cleveland

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Katunga within the Local Government Area of Moira has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

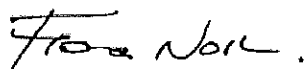
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Bev Colomb  
Mayor  
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council  
Private Bag 1000  
Rosebud VIC 3939

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Colomb

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Red Hill and Shoreham within the Local Government Area of Mornington Peninsula have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

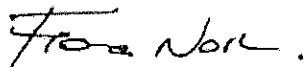
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Erika Vickery OAM  
Mayor  
Naracoorte Lucindale Council  
PO Box 555  
Naracoorte SA 5271

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Vickery

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Kybybolite within the Local Government Area of Naracoorte Lucindale has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Alfred Lacey Snr  
Mayor  
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council  
1 Main Street  
Palm Island QLD 4816

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Lacey

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Palm Island within the Local Government Area of Palm Island has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Peta Pinson  
Mayor  
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
PO Box 84  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Pinson

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Mount Seaview within the Local Government Area of Port Macquarie-Hastings has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

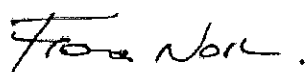
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Mr Wayne Wallis  
General Manager  
Port Stephens Council  
PO Box 42  
Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

11 October 2017

Dear Mr Wallis

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Fullerton Cove within the Local Government Area of Port Stephens has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

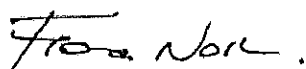
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Mr Peter Tegart  
Interim General Manager  
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council  
PO Box 90  
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

11 October 2017

Dear Mr Tegart

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Carwoola within the Local Government Area of Queanbeyan-Palerang has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Karen Williams  
Mayor  
Redland City Council  
PO Box 21  
Cleveland QLD 4163

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Williams

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that North Stradbroke Island and Russell Island within the Local Government Area of Redland have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Robert Mustow  
Mayor  
Richmond Valley Council  
Locked Bag 10  
Casino NSW 2470

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Mustow

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Nammoona and Yorklea within the Local Government Area of Richmond Valley have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

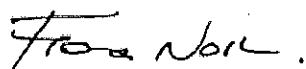
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Margaret Strelow  
Mayor  
Rockhampton Regional Council  
PO Box 1860  
Rockhampton QLD 4700

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Strelow

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Upper Ulam Road within the Local Government Area of Rockhampton has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

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- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr John Erren  
Shire President  
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale  
6 Paterson Street  
Mundijong WA 6123

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Erren

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Serpentine/Keysbrook within the Local Government Area of Serpentine Jarrahdale has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Amanda Findley  
Mayor  
Shoalhaven City Council  
PO Box 42  
Nowra NSW 2541

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Findley

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that East Lynne, Kangaroo Valley and Sussex Inlet/Wandandian/Bewong within the Local Government Area of Shoalhaven have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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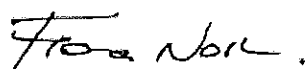
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Mr Dean Lynch  
Administrator  
Snowy Monaro Regional Council  
PO Box 714  
Cooma NSW 2630

11 October 2017

Dear Mr Lynch

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Bombala and Delegate within the Local Government Area of Snowy Monaro have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

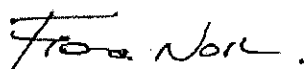
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You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Mr David Aber  
Acting General Manager  
Snowy Valleys Council  
PO Box 61  
Tumbarumba NSW 2653

11 October 2017

Dear Mr Aber

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Tumut within the Local Government Area of Snowy Valleys has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Mark Jamieson  
Mayor  
Sunshine Coast Council  
Locked Bag 72  
Sunshine Coast MC QLD 4560

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Jamieson

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Beerwah and Glass House Mountains within the Local Government Area of Sunshine Coast have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

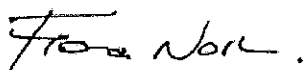
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fiona Nash".

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Brian McKitterick  
Mayor  
Surf Coast Shire Council  
PO Box 350  
Torquay VIC 3228

11 October 2017

Dear Cr McKitterick

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Aireys Inlet, Anglesea and Bellbrae within the Local Government Area of Surf Coast have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

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- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

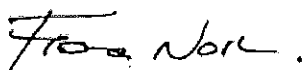
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Mick Wainwright  
Mayor  
City of Swan Council  
PO Box 196  
Midland WA 6936

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Wainwright

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Bullsbrook and Swan Valley within the Local Government Area of Swan have been identified as priority locations under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

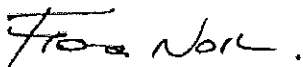
Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Roseanne Heyward  
Mayor  
Tasman Council  
1713 Main Road  
Nubeena TAS 7184

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Heyward

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Murdunna within the Local Government Area of Tasman has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

Please note that there is no requirement for a priority location to be the subject of a co-contribution by a local council in order to be eligible to receive funding from the Commonwealth under the Program.

You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Michael Pearce  
Mayor  
Uralla Shire Council  
32 Salisbury Street  
Uralla NSW 2358

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Pearce

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Kingstown within the Local Government Area of Uralla has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
- providing leasehold tenure for a site for a base station at zero or concessional cost;

- providing civil works at zero or concessional cost, such as for example the cost of bulldozing an access road to the site;
- providing access to an existing tower (such as an emergency services or other tower); or
- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

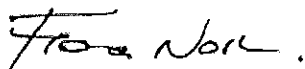
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Noel Dew  
Shire President  
Shire of Waroona  
PO Box 20  
Waroona WA 6215

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Dew

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Lake Clifton within the Local Government Area of Waroona has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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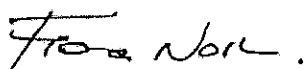
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You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nash'.

FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Peter Gandolfi  
Mayor  
Wattle Range Council  
PO Box 27  
Millicent SA 5280

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Gandolfi

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that Kalangadoo within the Local Government Area of Wattle Range has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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- providing a connection to an existing power source.

I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.

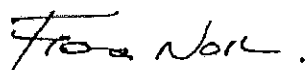
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Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Cr Carolyn Crossley  
Mayor  
Wellington Shire Council  
PO Box 506  
Sale VIC 3850

11 October 2017

Dear Cr Crossley

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

The Australian Government has committed \$220 million to the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have been highly successful, funding the deployment of 765 new mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia. Financial and in-kind co-contributions from third parties, including local governments and communities, greatly contributed to this success.

The Government's commitment to the Program includes \$60 million to target 125 priority locations which have already been specified. There will be an approach to market during the remainder of 2017 to deliver on these commitments, subject to suitable applications being submitted by the mobile carriers. I am pleased to advise that the Hyland Highway within the Local Government Area of Wellington has been identified as a priority location under this next round.

The Government is again inviting councils to participate in the Program in order to maximise its success in delivering improved mobile coverage and competition to local communities. Please notify the Department of Communications and the Arts if your Council, or any other organisation of which you are aware, is interested in doing any of following:

- making a financial contribution to the cost of installing a base station or similar infrastructure;
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I would be grateful if you can also nominate a contact person in your Council with whom the mobile carriers can consult on your co-contributions, and that you email this information to my Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) by Monday 23 October 2017.


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You should be aware that third party contributions to a priority location do not guarantee that there will be an outcome under the competitive process as the allocation of Commonwealth funding under this Program will depend upon a number of factors.

Finally, as Minister for Local Government I would like to draw your attention to the role that councils play in delivering towers through local planning processes. I ask that you work with the telecommunications providers in a timely fashion to consider any planning applications.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lachlann Paterson, Assistant Secretary, Regional Deployment Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts on 1800 113 486 or via email to [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
PO Box 84  
Port Macquarie  
NSW Australia 2444  
DX 7415  
e council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au



ACN 11 236 901 601

26 October 2017

Refers to: CRM 20706/2017

Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash  
C/o Lachlann Paterson Assistant Secretary  
Regional Deployment Branch  
Department of Communications and the Arts  
Email: [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au)

Dear Senator Nash

**Mobile Black Spot Program - Priority Locations Round**

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 October 2017 inviting Council's to participate in the above Program. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing this response.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure in the Mount Seaview area and Council's current funding commitments, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is not in a position to participate in the Program at this time.

Council appreciates being considered for this round of funding and looks forward to exploring future opportunities as they arise under the Mobile Black Spot Program.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Loe  
Acting Director Infrastructure



General Manager

FOI 54-1718 document 4

P: 02 6778 6300

F: 02 6778 6349

E: [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au)

32 Salisbury St, Uralla NSW 2358

PO Box 106, Uralla NSW 2358

ABN: 55 868 272 018

20 October 2017

Senator the Hon Fiona Nash  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

**Mobile Black Spot Program – Priority Locations Round**

Thank you for your letter received 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 regarding the aforementioned and which notes that Kingstown (within the Uralla Shire Council area) has been identified as a priority location under this round.

As you may know, there is currently very limited mobile coverage, coupled with extensive black spot areas, between Uralla, Kingstown, Bundarra, Barraba and Bendemeer.

There is an opportunity to provide service to much of this black spot area with the establishment of a mobile site at the current police radio site (tower and hut) located at Round Mountain, Kingstown. This site already has, thanks to the land owner and the NSW Police, all three key components of power, access and tower.

Provision of mobile services to Kingstown would improve social and economic outcomes for the Kingstown village (including school) and surrounding rural enterprises, which include substantial livestock and viticulture operations and associated tourism, particularly on weekends.

Additional positive attributes for the Round Mountain police tower are:

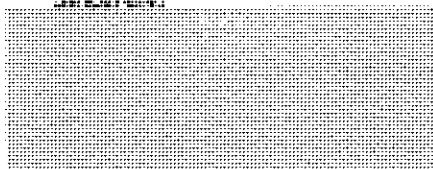
- Establishment of transmission link to provide communications from the Kingstown village and surrounds to the outside world is quite straightforward. Council is of the understanding there are two options available: a) fibre from one of two accessible fibre access points using existing fibre runs from the Kingstown Exchange, or B) a radio link from the Kingstown Exchange, which is less than 5km's away and has clear line of sight.

- An almost circular coverage pattern, extending to 25km's in all directions.
- Coverage fits well with other existing and planned mobile telecommunication sites.
- It is Council's understanding the existing tower can accommodate the necessary mobile telecommunications infrastructure.

Council has not made budgetary provision for financial outlays towards the establishment of mobile communications infrastructure on the Round Hill tower, however, would consider, 'in principal' contributing civil works at concessional costs should there be a need for such.

I would be grateful if you would keep me abreast of progress with this important matter and should the need arise I would be happy to facilitate a meeting between the land owner, the tower owner and Council should such assist expedite the delivery of mobile telephone infrastructure at this location.

Sincerely,



Councillor Michael Pearce  
**MAYOR**

23 October 2017

Senator the Hon Fiona Nash  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Parliament House  
[mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au)

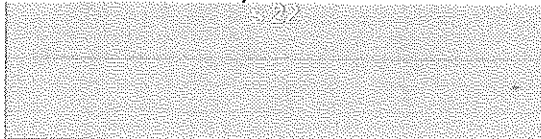
Dear Senator

**MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROGRAM – PRIORITY LOCATIONS ROUND**

I refer to your request regarding the Australian Government's Mobile Black Spot Program dated 11 October 2017. Wellington Shire Council is pleased to participate and would be happy to assist in providing leasehold tenure for a base station site initially at a below market value depending on the term required.

For any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Denis Murphy, Commercial Property Officer on (03) 5143 2123 or [denism@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:denism@wellington.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

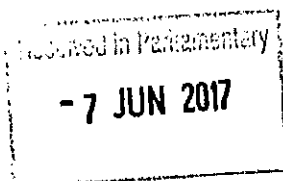
A rectangular area of the document has been redacted with a grey stippled pattern, obscuring the signature of Carolyn Crossley.

**CAROLYN CROSSLEY**  
Mayor



PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE  
ENQUIRIES

mj : sg



29 May, 2017

Minister for Regional Communications  
Senator the Hon Fiona Nash  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Nash

**RE: MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROGRAM – ROUND 3**

Central Goldfields Shire is a relatively compact municipality located equal distance between Bendigo and Ballarat in Central Victoria, where mobile phone coverage has been an ongoing challenge.

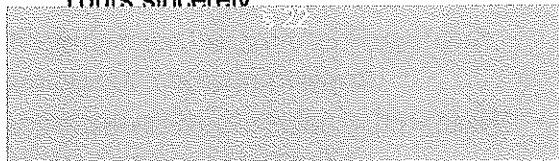
In March 2017 the Regional Development Australia – Loddon Mallee Committee released a Mobile Coverage Report providing a Call Drop and Signal Strength Assessment. This work provided an evidence-base to anecdotal information that "Central Goldfields Shire has some of the poorest black spot results in the Loddon Mallee region". In fact almost half of all 1,250 kms of road tested in the Shire were black spots. Please find attached a copy of the Mobile Coverage Report.

You will of course appreciate the critical role that telecommunications plays in emergency management/information, and, in population and business attraction.

Council is therefore seeking your support for inclusion in Round 3 of the Commonwealth's Mobile Black Spot program, and has similarly made representations to the three carriers for inclusion in their Round 3 applications

Should you have any queries whatsoever or wish to discuss this matter please do not hesitate to contact me. Council looks forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely



Mark W Johnston  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

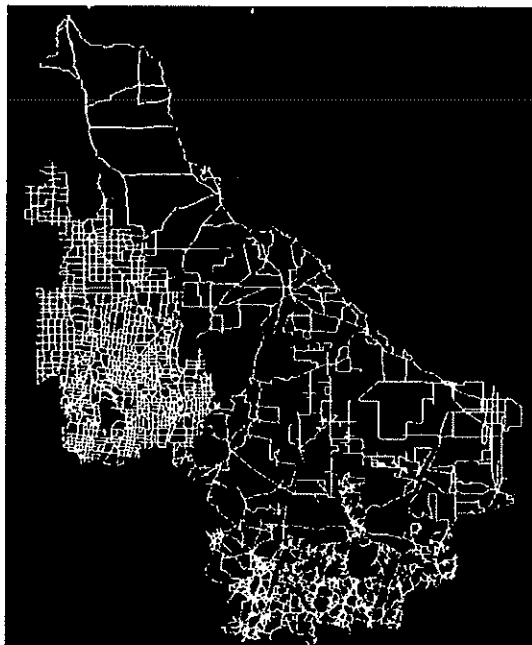
Encl.






Regional Development Australia - Loddon Mallee  
**Mobile Coverage Report**

**Call Drop and Signal Strength Assessment Methodology**

May 2017

Version 1.02



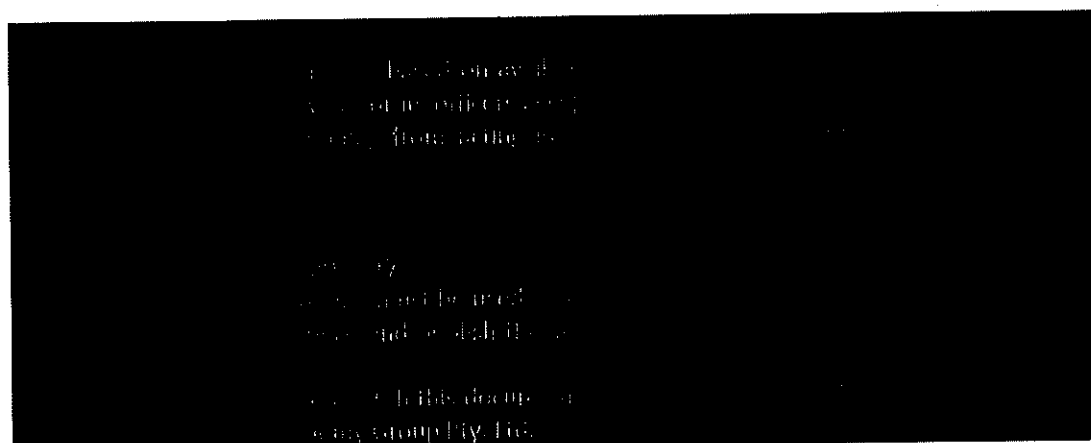
Strategy, Planning & Development   
Implementation Programs   
Research, Analysis & Measurement   
Mobile Coverage Testing   
Digital Mapping 

#### Document History

Document History				
V0.1	Initial Draft	Josh Whereat	Michael Whereat	February 2017
V1.0	Review Draft	Josh Whereat	Michael Whereat	March 2017
V1.01	Draft with edits	Josh Whereat	Michael Whereat	March 2017
V1.02	Further Draft with edits	Josh Whereat	Michael Whereat	May 2017

#### Distribution List

Distribution List	
Peter Forbes, Kathryne Charnas	RDA Loddon Mallee
Michael Whereat	Director, Digital Economy Group
Josh Whereat	Project Manager, Digital Economy Group



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## Executive Summary

The Mobile carriers claim very high percentages of coverage for the population of Australia. The reality is that for significant proportions of the Loddon Mallee, the mobile network users experience coverage ranging from very poor to black spots for all three carriers. The anecdotal evidence has been recognised by the local governments, Regional Development Victoria and Loddon Mallee Regional Development Australia (RDA) for a number of years.

The independent testing in 2014 along highways and through the principle towns did confirm the anecdotal evidence but not to the level of detail required to provide a strong case for Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) to deliver a large number of new sites.

In 2016 Regional Development Victoria and Regional Development Australia took up an option for the region to self drive their own local government areas using the Digital Economy Group GoMobile Testing equipment. Eight of the ten Loddon Mallee councils committed to be part of the project. The core testing method used recorded where calls dropped out and the associated signal strength. By replicating the real world experience of users for all three national carriers simultaneously and using the same model phones, DEG has created a unique and very strong independent evaluation of the network performance at that point in time.

The results are very clear and the business case for Mobile Black Spot Program funding or carrier upgrades/new sites has never been stronger. The Loddon Mallee [Digital Infrastructure Map](#) provides a public interface for the results to be accessed and inform the advocacy and MBSP funding applications.

A total of approximately 14,745kms of roads were driven across the eight tested Loddon Mallee Council areas. A total of 12,067 call drop locations were registered for all three carriers. Signal strength ratings of very poor to black spot were recorded for a total of 3,421 kms for all three carriers in aggregate across all tested local government areas. The breakdown for each local government area can be seen in the Table below.

**Table 1: Overview of test statistics for the 8 Loddon Mallee Region councils tested**

	Loddon Mallee Region	Telstra		Vodafone	
		Call Drop	Signal Strength	Call Drop	Signal Strength
Ballarat Council	1,000.00	1,638	592.64	1,589	178.59
Benalla Council	1,000.00	39	53.04	659	139.60
Chiltern Council	1,000.00	61	80.57	235	327.49
Colac Council	1,000.00	304	93.92	812	116.78
Geelong Council	1,000.00	213	74.19	230	214.44
Horsham Council	1,000.00	331	92.30	810	438.08
Latrobe Council	1,000.00	110	18.00	350	152.08
Shire of Mallee	1,000.00	80	94.61	104	152.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>1,099.27</b>	<b>4,789</b>	<b>1,719.49</b>

Test results provide their strongest impact where mapped to show the clusters of black spots and very poor coverage.

The table below summarises the 17 areas identified as potential candidates for Round 3 of the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) and 33 areas eligible where Loddon Mallee can now advocate for carrier network upgrade or new sites separate to the MBSP. The Map below shows where these areas are located around the eight Loddon Mallee local government areas tested.

Map 1: Overview of eligible MBSP sites together with carrier upgrade or new locations

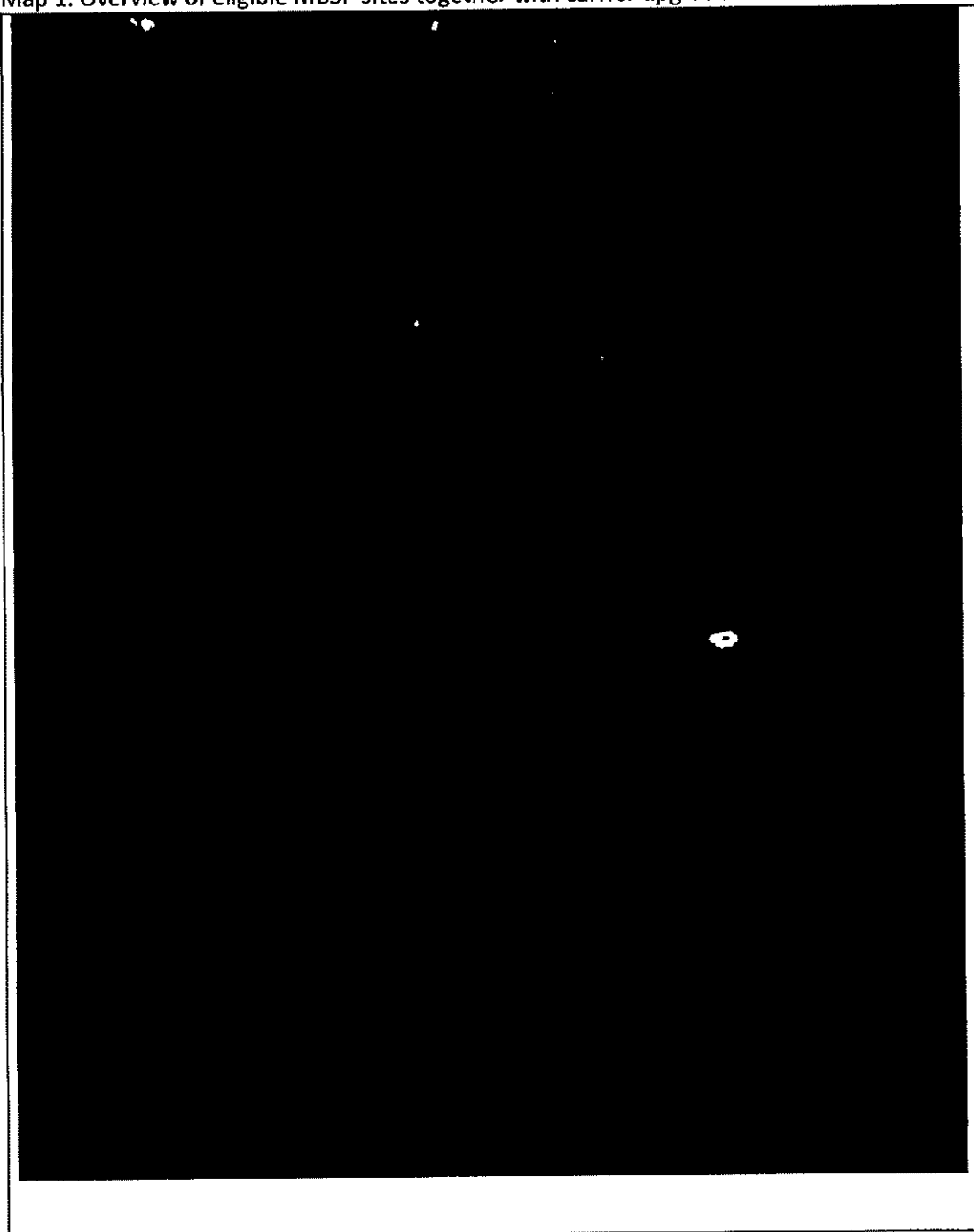


Table 2: MBSP Eligible sites and Carrier network upgrade/new site candidates

	MBSP	Mobile Carrier upgrade/new sites		
Local Government	Eligible Areas	Towers	Carriers	Villages
Buloke	4	1	0	0
Campaspe	0	1	1	1
Central Goldfields	2	0	3	3
Gannawarra	2	1	1	2
Greater Bendigo	1	3	0	4
Loddon	3	1	1	2
Mount Alexander	3	0	1	2
Swan Hill	2	2	1	2
Total	17	9	6	15
Mobile Carrier upgrade/new sites - new tower more than one site per area				

The Loddon Mallee region is now able to mobilise the next phase of the project by:

1. prioritising the areas of greatest priority
2. undertake additional detailed assessment for the top priority locations to inform:
  - a. advocacy for MBSP funding
  - b. advocacy with each for the carriers for both MBPS and carrier network upgrades/new sites
3. Work with industry and business groups to pursue improvements in coverage for mobile connectivity, internet coverage and Internet of Things (Machine to Machine) connectivity









## Introduction

The RDA Loddon Mallee has engaged the Digital Economy Group to provide access to the independent testing system – GoMobile. The testing included registering locations where Call Drops occurred and where the mobile signal strength was very poor to a carrier black spot.

RDA Loddon Mallee have requested two outputs from the testing:

1. A report documenting the key findings of the testing into a mobile coverage report identifying areas eligible for Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) finding or individual carrier network upgrade or new site locations.
2. A digital infrastructure map to enable the region, councils and community to be able to access a web based interface. This can be accessed at [here](#)<sup>1</sup>

The 8 councils who participated in the testing were:

-  Buloke Shire Council
-  Campaspe Shire Council
-  Central Goldfields Shire Council
-  Gannawarra Shire Council
-  City of Greater Bendigo
-  Loddon Shire Council
-  Mount Alexander Shire Council
-  Rural City of Swan Hill

Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Rural City of Mildura did not undertake testing during the 12month testing phase.

## Looking beyond mobile coverage

Mobile connectivity, for phone calls and broadband, has become a utility expected by business, residents and the community where ever they go. The rapid development of new technologies and faster connection options has resulted in regional and rural areas of Australia being on the wrong side of the 'Digital Divide'. In our capital cities, there are virtually no Black Spots for coverage and rapid deployment of the latest generation of connectivity. On the other side of the 'Digital Divide' Black spots form the largest part of the landscape and their townships have technology a generation or two behind.

Nationally, there were approximately 22.0 million mobile handset subscribers in Australia (30 June 2016). This is an increase of 4.6% since the end of June 2015. The volume of data downloaded via mobile handsets for the three months ending 30 June 2016 was 121,147 Terabytes. This was a 33.6% increase in data downloads via mobile handsets from the three months ending 31 December 2015. For the 22.0 million mobile handset subscribers, this equates to 1.8 GB of data downloaded per subscriber per month.

Table 3: Mobile handset subscriber numbers and volume of data

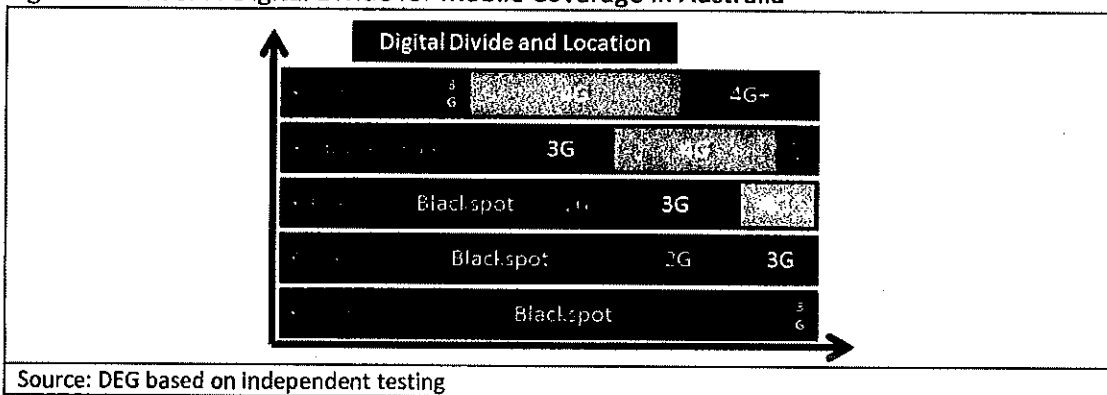
	Jun 2015	Dec 2015	Jun 2016
Total mobile handset subscribers	20,993,000	21,334,000	21,966,000
Volume of data downloaded via mobile handset	71,572 TB	90,693 TB	121,147 TB

<sup>1</sup> Or If the hyperlink is not available -the full address is: <http://digitalinframap.digitaleconomygroup.com.au/LoddonMalleeRegion>

For regions like Loddon Mallee, the challenge is to find ways to partner with the three privately owned carriers to reduce the extent of Black Spot coverage. They must seek to drive expanded and advanced deployment of the best generation technology the carriers are prepared to invest in to generate their private company need for profit. Another avenue to improve coverage is to access the Black Spot Funding Program to be developed because of the policy released in the lead up to the Federal election.

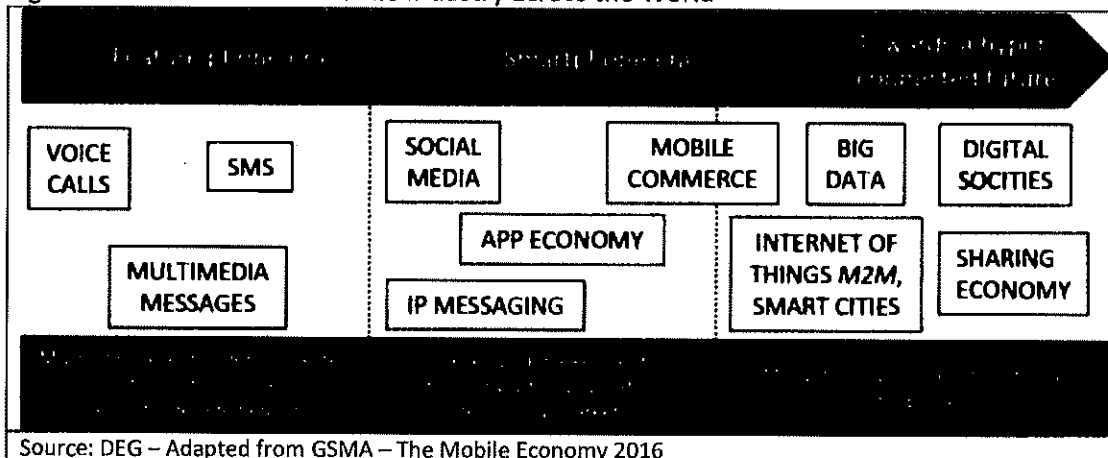
For local government, managing the region in times of disaster or emergency, to providing a positive experience for visitors and delivering greater productivity for businesses is now a constant requirement for successful regions.

Figure 1: Model of Digital Divide for Mobile Coverage in Australia



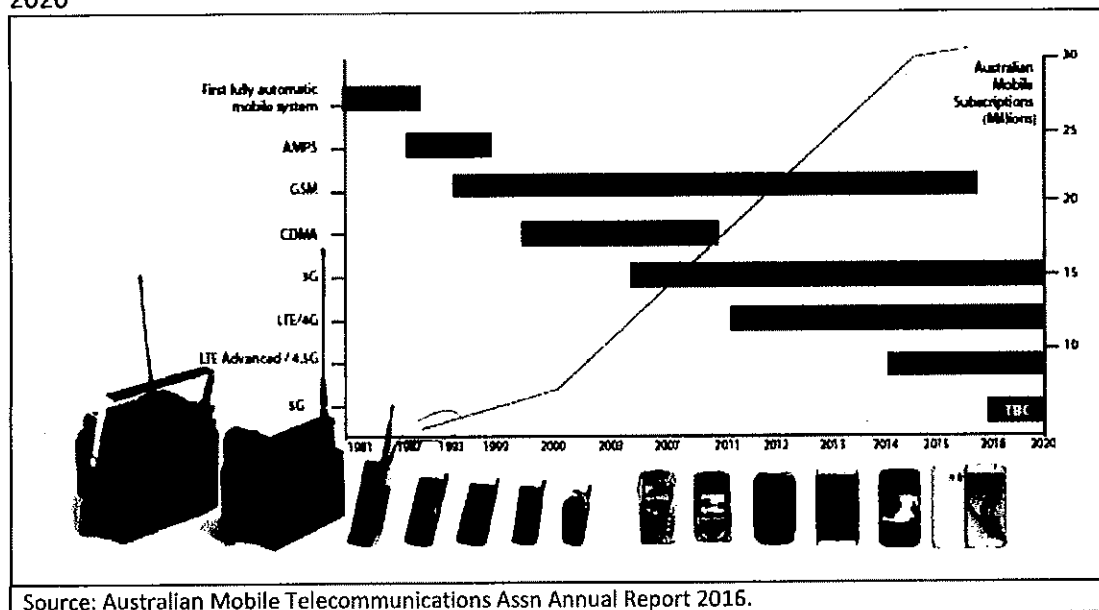
Mobile connectivity has moved in 25 short years from exclusive access to universal access and is expected. People now use these networks for voice calls through the app economy to a hyper connected future where Smart phones are becoming central devices to our lives. See the evolution of the mobile industry illustration below. The demand for data is doubling each year. The illustration is adapted from the international communication industry annual report by GSMA.

Figure 2: Evolution of the mobile industry across the World



The need to look beyond mobile black spots becomes ever more apparent as the demand for data doubles each year (reference <http://www.amta.org.au/>) and there are now 18,000 mobile sites around Australia with 3,000 in planning, acquisition or deployment at any one time by Australia's three major Carriers, Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.

Figure 3: Development of Mobile Technology and increases in mobile subscriptions 1981-2020



For regional areas like Loddon Mallee, the clearest objective and opportunity from the development of mobile networks is the potential to harness the so called Internet of Things (IoT, Machine to Machine (M2M) and Smart Cities. This is also an area where you don't need to rely on only the major carriers. Currently Thinxtra (a SigFox – Low energy Wide Area Network protocol) is being rolled out to 50 local governments at no charge.

#### Why use a network like SigFox?

*Simply because they are long range (so an object could be sitting 20km away), they require low power to connect (objects can last 10 years on very small batteries) and cost of connection is very low (as low as \$2/year/device).*

*However they are limited in terms of size of messages you can send. Clearly they are not made for sending audio & video files. So with such networks, you can start wireless connecting of any kind of sensors directly to the cloud. Sensors such as temperature, humidity, battery status, GPS location,... and the beauty of it, you can even start having objects communicating together on pre-programmed scenarios.*

*For example: If your water meter was connected and the sensor was detecting a leak - Instead of just sending you an alert message, it could decide to act on another type of sensor (actuator) to cut a specific water access before it is too late. It could also directly contact the water company to fix the problem. These kind of solutions or scenarios is opening a new world of automatization that was never possible before because it was too costly & too power hungry.*

Source: <http://www.thinxtra.com/2016/01/sigfox/>

From the farm, to business, industry and local government, many of the systems and devices you are connecting only need to communicate in bytes. Where this is the case if you are using a sim card to connect them, you are paying many times the cost of a Sigfox connection.

There are other options – The things network is another low cost non-carrier alternative. Telstra and Optus will have systems out in 2017, however where there is competition, pricing is competitive.

## Mobile Black Spot Program

The Mobile Black Spot Program released by the Commonwealth Government was a key opportunity. With a total of \$160 mil available in both initial Rounds and a further \$60 mil in Round 3 to leverage carrier investments and in partnership with local government and other regional stakeholders, Loddon Mallee is well positioned to seek a proportion of this funding for the region. The preparation of a business case for specific locations that builds on this report is strongly recommended to help prepare the region for the release of 'requests for proposals' during 2017.

Finally, advocacy by the key political representatives of the region highlighting the need for reducing black spots, preparing the region for periods of disaster and attracting greater business investment will be critical.

Through ongoing Loddon Mallee facilitation of mobile communications coverage and good partnerships the Loddon Mallee region has the potential to influence the carrier investment programs, achieve better services for the region and move to the right side of the digital divide.

The Australian Government committed \$100 million through Round 1 of the Program to invest in telecommunications infrastructure to address mobile black spots in outer metropolitan, regional and remote Australia. Through carrier contributions (Telstra and Vodafone) and the states and local governments, the total to be invested in new and upgraded base stations under Round 1 of the Program was \$385 million.

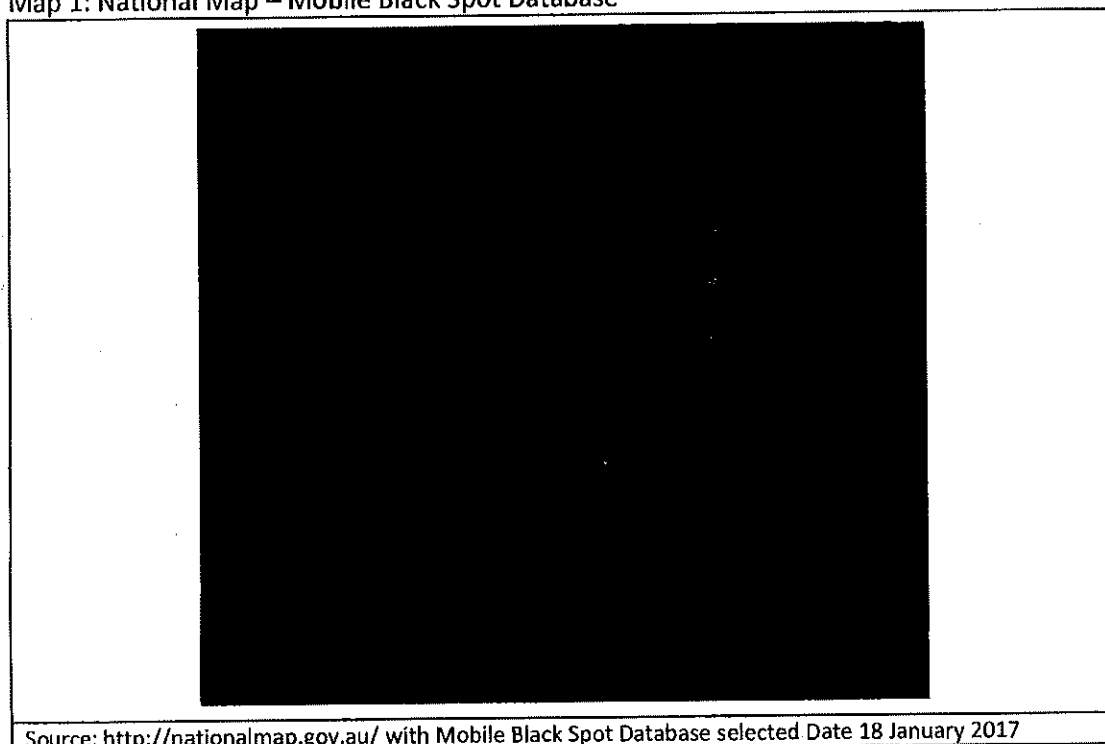
In Round 2, a further \$60 million was committed by the Government with funding to be available over two years from 1 July 2016. Round 2 of the Program is operating under similar guidelines as the first round of the Program. The Government reviewed the results of Round 1 and did not make any significant changes. The intent of Round 2 of the Program was to offer further opportunities to meet unmet demand and provide coverage to more locations around regional and remote Australia.

### Mobile Black Spot Registration Database

For both initial rounds the Department of Communications and the Arts (The Department) invited individuals and governments/councils to contribute to a map of black spot areas across Australia (see map below). By the end of consultation for Round 1, a database of 6,221 locations had been generated using registration from the public and other organisations. During the consultation for Round 2 (April 2016) the number of recorded black spots had increased to 10,802. This database has been the starting point for the competitive selection process under which the mobile network operators were asked to nominate where they would build new or upgraded base stations.

The key issue with the national database that the sites identified were not qualified in any way. For example, people with a Vodafone coverage issue could nominate where there was Telstra coverage and vice versa. It also did not discriminate between indoors and outdoors. In locations where the DEG GoMobile independent mobile testing was undertaken, the identified black spots were taken more seriously by the carriers and both state and commonwealth governments.

Map 1: National Map – Mobile Black Spot Database



### National Round 1 and 2 Results

Following submissions and funding proposals by the three carriers and respective state governments, Round 1 of the Program was announced on the 25 June 2015 and will deliver 499 new and upgraded mobile base stations across regional and remote Australia – 429 Telstra base stations and 70 Vodafone base stations. Optus was not successful in participating in the Program at all.

Round 2 of the Program was announced on 1 December 2016 and will deliver 266 new or upgraded mobile base stations- 148 Telstra base stations<sup>2</sup>, 114 Optus base stations- 27 in Queensland more than any other state<sup>3</sup>, and 4 base stations by Vodafone.

An illustration of the funding of both Round 1 and 2 is demonstrated in the Table below.

Table 4: National Mobile Black Spot results - Round 1 and Round 2

Stakeholders	Round 1 Millions incl. GST	Round 2 Millions incl. GST
Commonwealth	\$ 110	\$ 57.275
Telstra and Vodafone	\$ 185.3	-
Telstra, Optus and Vodafone	-	\$ 101.7
State governments (WA, NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS)	\$ 87.7	-
State governments (WA, QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, TAS)	-	\$ 53.55

<sup>2</sup> Wright, M. (2016). Connecting even more regional communities under the Black Spot Program. Available at <https://exchange.telstra.com.au/2016/12/01/connecting-more-regional-communities-than-ever-before-under-the-black-spot-program/>, Accessed 11 January 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Pacey, M. & Batten, S. (2016). Optus to build 114 Sites in government Mobile Black Spot Program Second Round Funding. Available at <https://media.optus.com.au/media-releases/2016/optus-to-build-114-sites-in-government-mobile-black-spot-program-second-round-funding/>, Accessed 11 January 2017).

Stakeholders	Round 1 Millions incl. GST	Round 2 Millions incl. GST
Other (LGA's, ROC's, RDA's, private sector etc.)	\$ 1.7	\$ 0.475
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 384.7</b>	<b>\$ 213</b>

Sourced: <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program>, accessed 10/01/2017).

### **State and Local Funding in Rounds 1 and 2**

The Mobile Black Spot Program was funded from a range of stakeholder including different levels of government, the three major Carriers, Regional Development Australia (RDA's) and other investors. In particular, the funding invested by each state government saw considerable return in the number of funded sites secured. As shown in the Table below, in both rounds NSW and VIC governments invested similar amounts, \$32.65 mil by NSW in both rounds and \$28.9 mil by VIC as well. As a result both states secured the appropriate number of sites available as they funded, 183 for NSW and 144 for VIC respectively. Both NSW and VIC are Australia's largest states by population and economy, are clearly committed to reduce the digital divide and both have made good progress.

Western Australia has the fourth largest population and economy in Australia, but as the largest by size and the fastest growing, WA has made more investment in the Program. In both rounds, Western Australia invested \$53.8 mil in the program, a third more than NSW and secured 208 sites for WA. The participation of Western Australia in the Program, evidences their desire to incorporate more of the large state in the digital economy.

Tasmania and South Australia are smaller in their population and economy size, which is reflected in their low investment in the program. However, as shown by South Australia's participation in Funding in Round 2 there is potential for growth in both states and their capacity to enhance their states participation in the digital economy.

Lastly as shown in Table 3, various Local Government Areas (LGA), Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC), Regional Development Australia (RDA), local business, and other members of the private sector, invested \$2.175 mil in both rounds collectively. This investment is likely to have contributed to their regions securing of sites. In Round 3, funding for sites will be more competitive than in Rounds 1 and 2. To be successful in a more competitive round 3, Loddon Mallee may need to consider financial contributions.

**Table 5: State and Territory funding contributions and sites funded**

State Government funding	Round 1 State Govt Funding \$mil	Round 1 sites	Round 2 State Govt Funding \$mil	Round 2 sites	Total Funding \$mil	Total # of sites	Total number of recorded black spots (as of April 2016,)
New South Wales	\$24.35m	144	\$8.3m	39	\$32.65m	183	3,419
Victoria	\$21m	110	\$7.9m	32	\$28.9m	142	2,461
Queensland	\$10m	68	\$13.7m	76	\$23.7m	144	1,795
Western Australia	\$32m	130	\$21.8m	78	\$53.8m	208	1,387
Tasmania	\$0.35m	31	\$0.35m	6	\$0.7m	37	421
South Australia	-	11	\$1.5m	20	\$1.5m	31	836
Northern Territory	-	5	-	15	-	20	470

Australian Capital Territory/ External territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 and 3
Total	\$87.7m	499	\$53.55m	266	\$141.25m	765	10,802

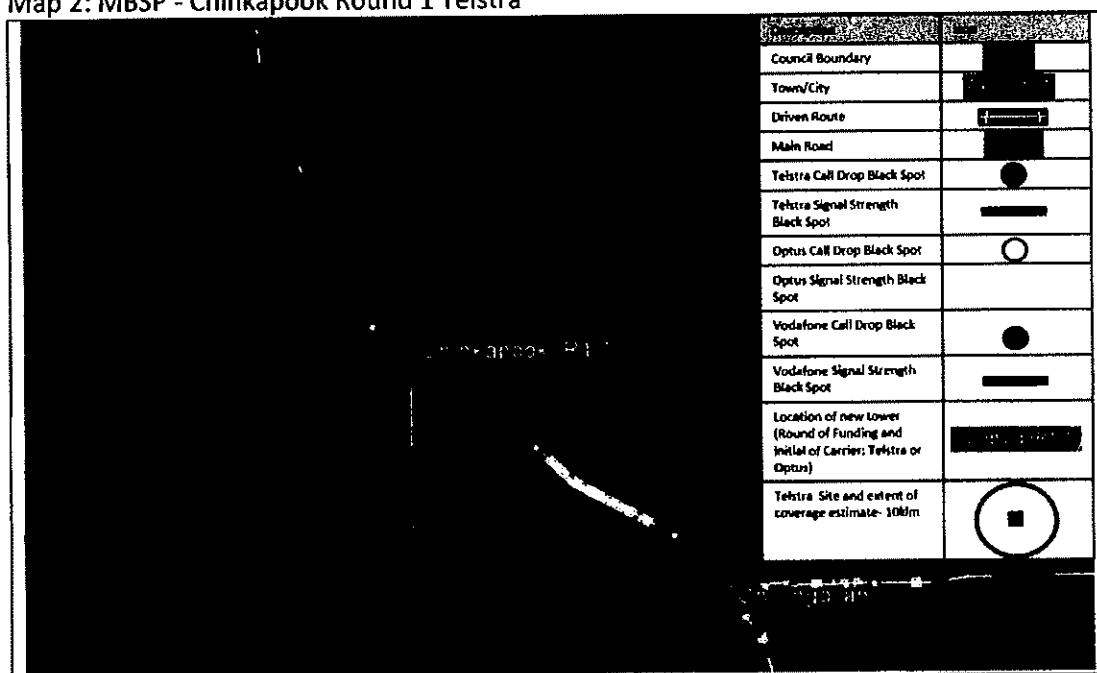
Sources: <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program>, accessed 10/01/2017; <https://data.gov.au/dataset/community-reports-of-poor-or-no-mobile-coverage/resource/c6b211ad-3aa2-4f53-8427-01b52a6433a7>, accessed 10/01/2017.

### **Loddon Mallee results from Round 1 and Round 2**

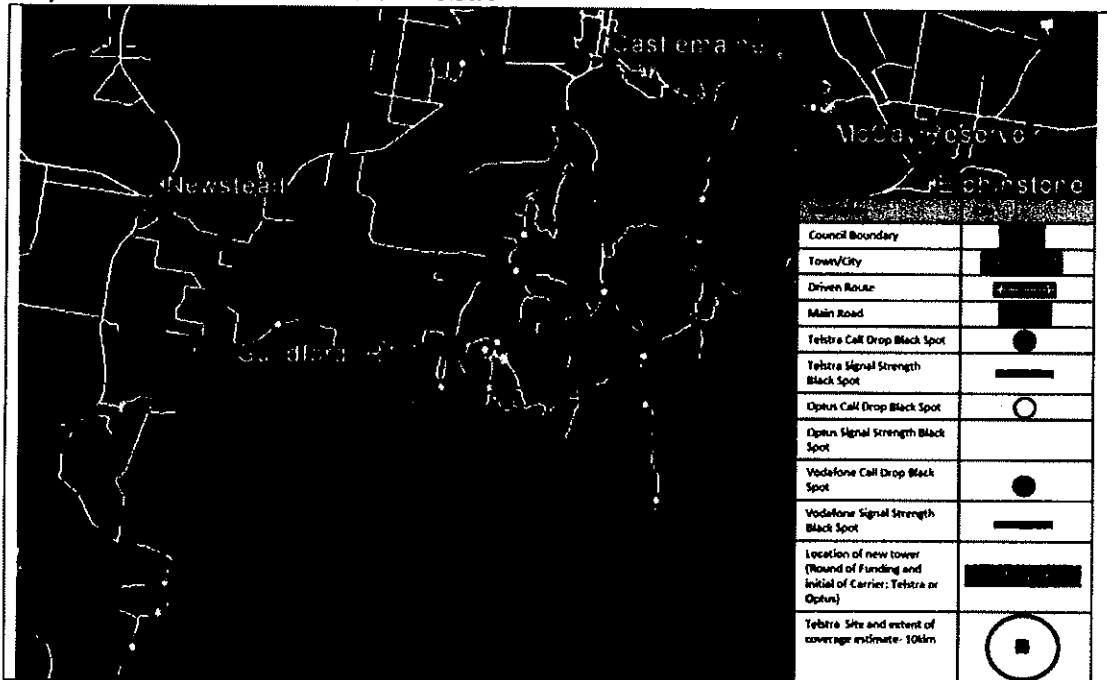
In Round 1 and Round 2 of the Mobile Black Spot Program, of the eight Loddon Mallee councils in this mobile coverage report, a total of seven new mobile sites were confirmed. Four from Telstra in Round 1 (Chinkapook, Guildford, Lalbert and Korong Vale) and three from Optus in Round 2 (Lake Meran Nullawil and Redesdale).

The Maps below combine the projected coverage area of the new sites and the test results showing the expected extent of improvement. The blue and yellow represent Telstra and Optus respectively.

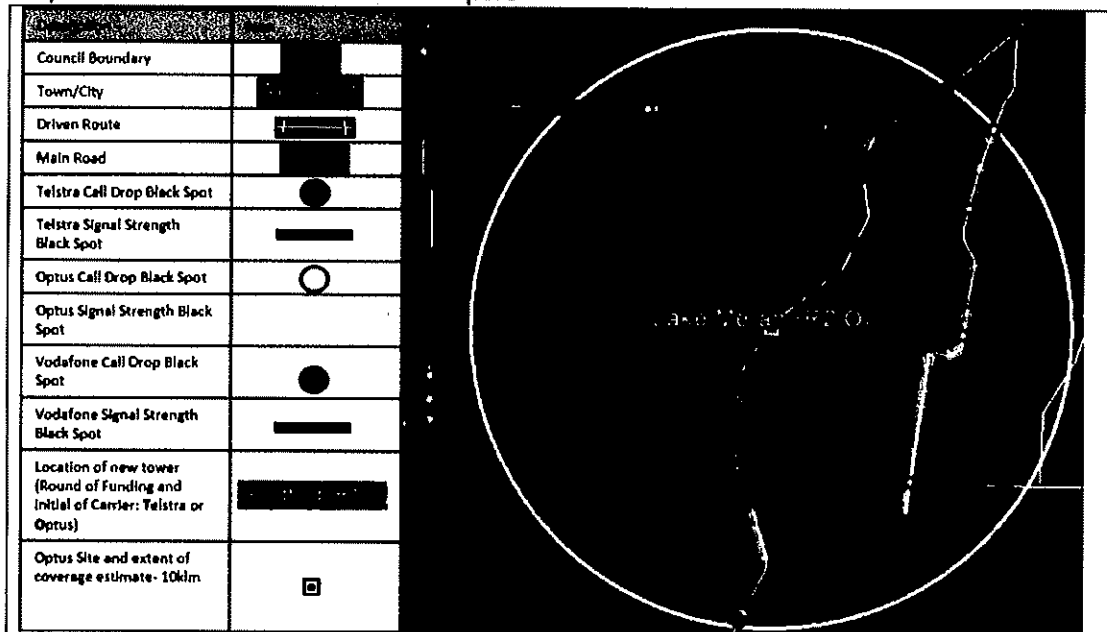
**Map 2: MBSP - Chinkapook Round 1 Telstra**



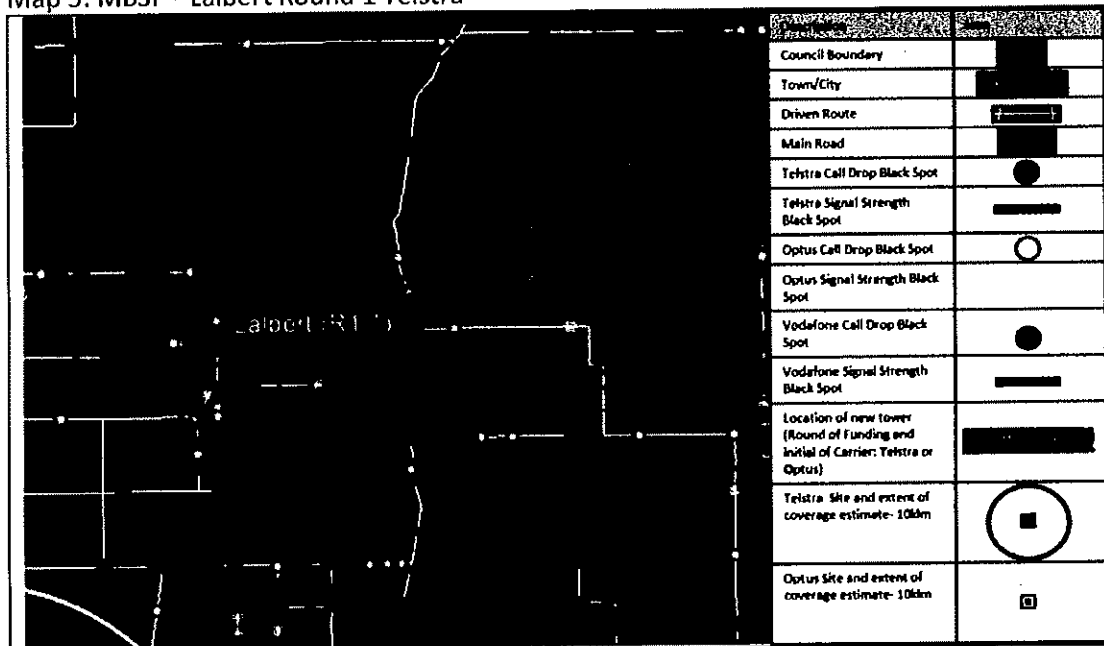
Map 3: MBSP - Guildford Round 1 Telstra



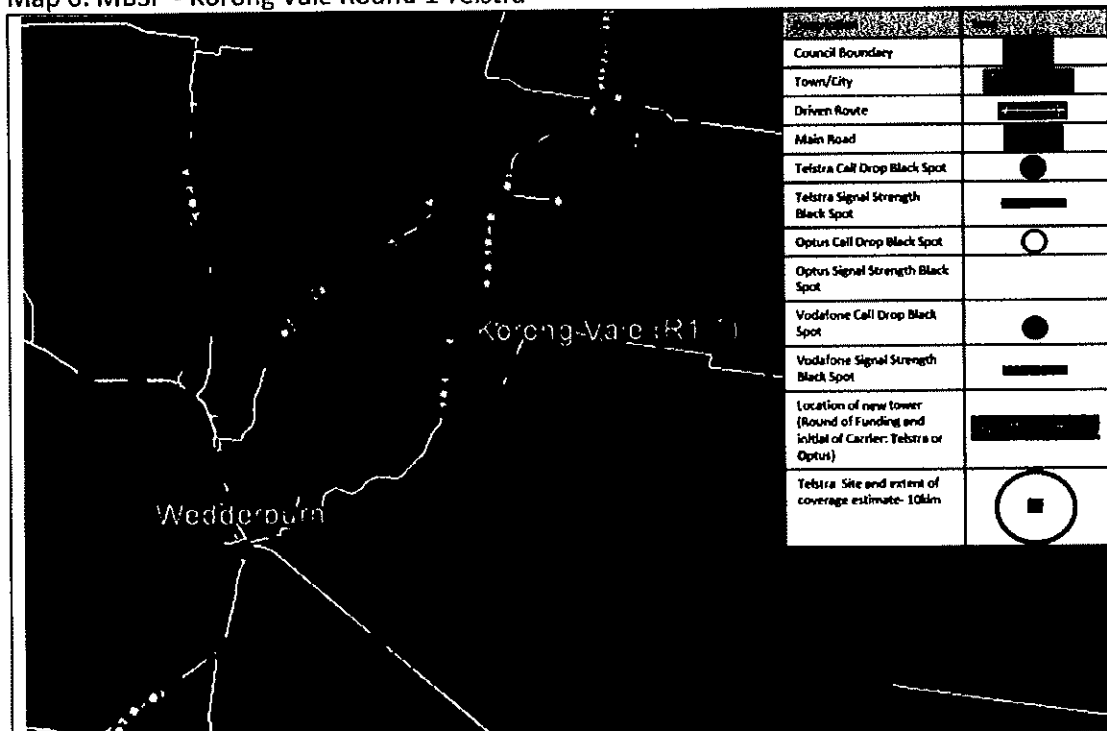
Map 4: MBSP - Lake Meran Round 2 Optus



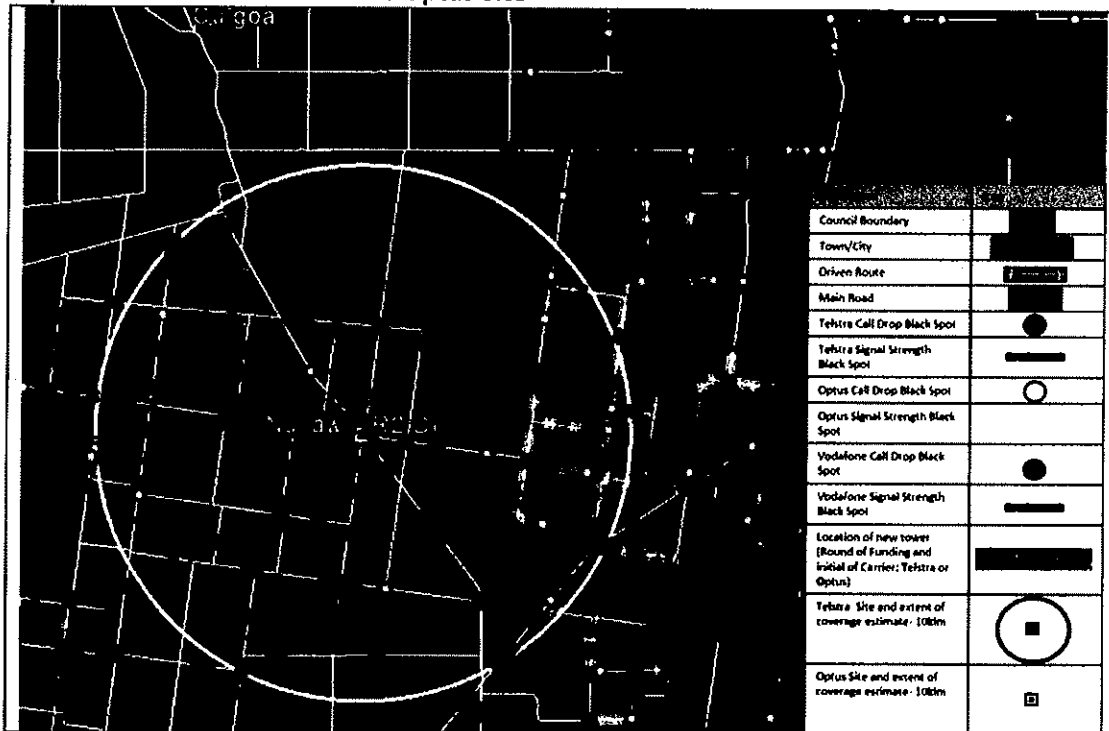
Map 5: MBSP - Lalbert Round 1 Telstra



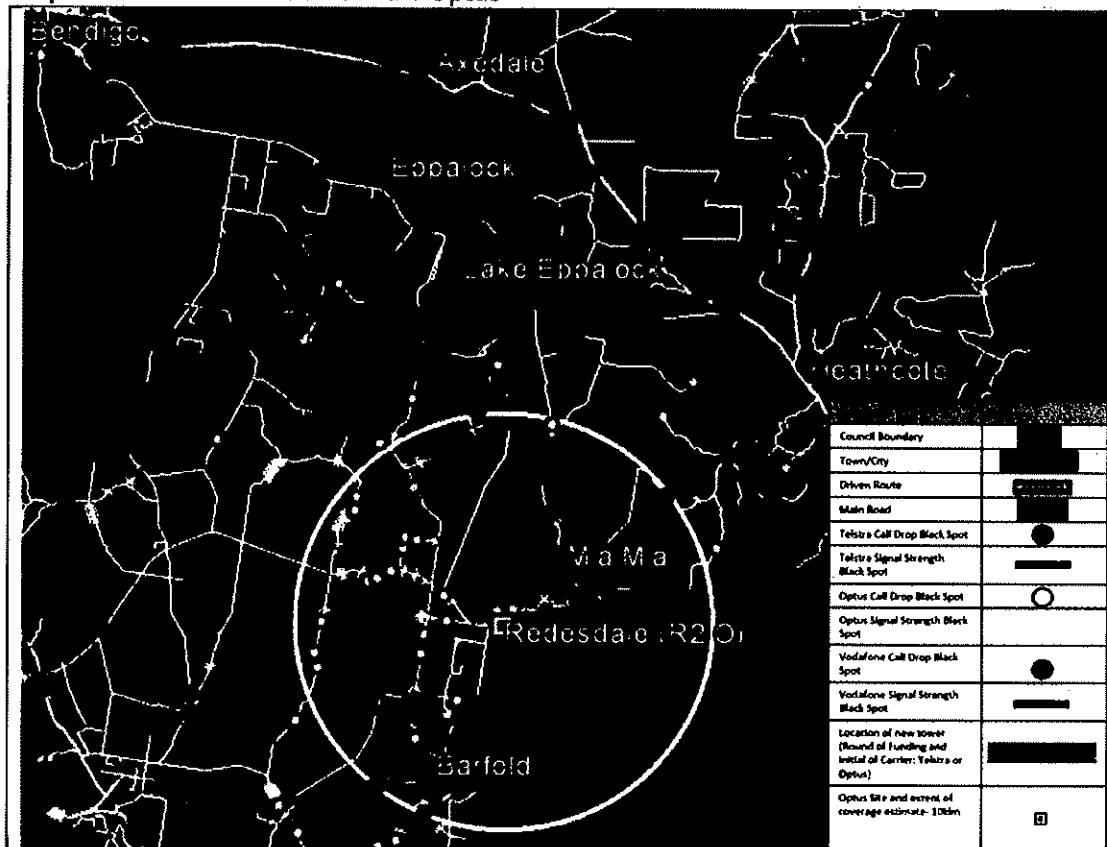
Map 6: MBSP - Korong Vale Round 1 Telstra



Map 7: MBSP - Nullawil Round 2 Optus Site



Map 8: MBSP - Redesdale Round 2 Optus



**Round 3 Mobile Black Spot Program Funding**

The Australian Government has committed an additional \$60 million to a third round of funding. This is the same level of federal commitment as Round 2. The Department (of Communications and the Arts) are expected to develop and run a competitive process to allocate Round 3 funding and is expected to commence in 2017. In the two earlier rounds the National Map of reported mobile black spots has influenced the prioritisation of the funding. See the Department of Communications website for further details on the program – Round 3.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program>

## Methodology

Digital Economy Group has been independently testing Mobile networks for coverage for over 6 years. In that time we have consistently improved and refined the testing methodologies to create a system that robustly confirms the network performance or establishes the extent of non-coverage.

There are four simple principles used to inform our testing methodology:

1. User experience based – we use handsets commonly owned by users rather than other more technical and theoretical approaches.
2. Same handset same settings – this provides an equitable basis for bench marking network performance.
3. Simultaneous testing – all tests are carried out in the same vehicle – spaced to remove interference and completed at the same time in that location.
4. Time Series Testing - When network performance tests are done (download and upload of data to the internet) DEG samples 10% of locations using time series. The 10 tests over 3 minutes show the strengths and weaknesses of the live network.

### Call drop and signal strength

The Loddon Mallee testing used the core testing methodology of call drop and signal strength. The GoMobile independent mobile network testing software and testing system can also undertake single network performance and time series tests as well.

The call drop and signal strength testing is undertaken for each of the three major carriers: Telstra, Optus and Vodafone. The smart phone devices are typically set to generate markers every 50m.

The tests are exported to a GIS platform to allow a rapid on site assessment of the full range of signal strengths from Low Signal Range to High Signal Range and black spot locations. This assessment phase also involves a comparison of the test results with the carrier advertised coverage maps. The Signal Strength Test evaluates the strength of the signal from the local tower to the testing location.

### Differences between test results and general network users

Council and regional representatives will need to remember when talking to carriers, that the testing was done with a smart phone with a contemporary handset and quality internal antennae. Users with handheld devices with smaller antennas or seeking to call/connect indoors may experience further degrading of the signals strength and network connectivity.

### Issues arising from self-drive testing

The following issues have been identified with the testing methodology and may impact the quality of the testing/final report findings.

- The testing was done by multiple drivers over approx. 12 months
- Some roads were tested multiple times and not all areas in each local movement were tested within a short time frame.
- Multiple captures on the same road – as many as 5 times – we would start and stop the testing to ensure there is only one set of data
- Capture from one account into multiple local government areas – we had to split capture files so that each only had a single local government area in it – stopping and starting at the border provides a clean capture

Digital Economy Group (DEG) have reviewed and removed test results where multiple records exist together with other location where there was potential for false positive readings.

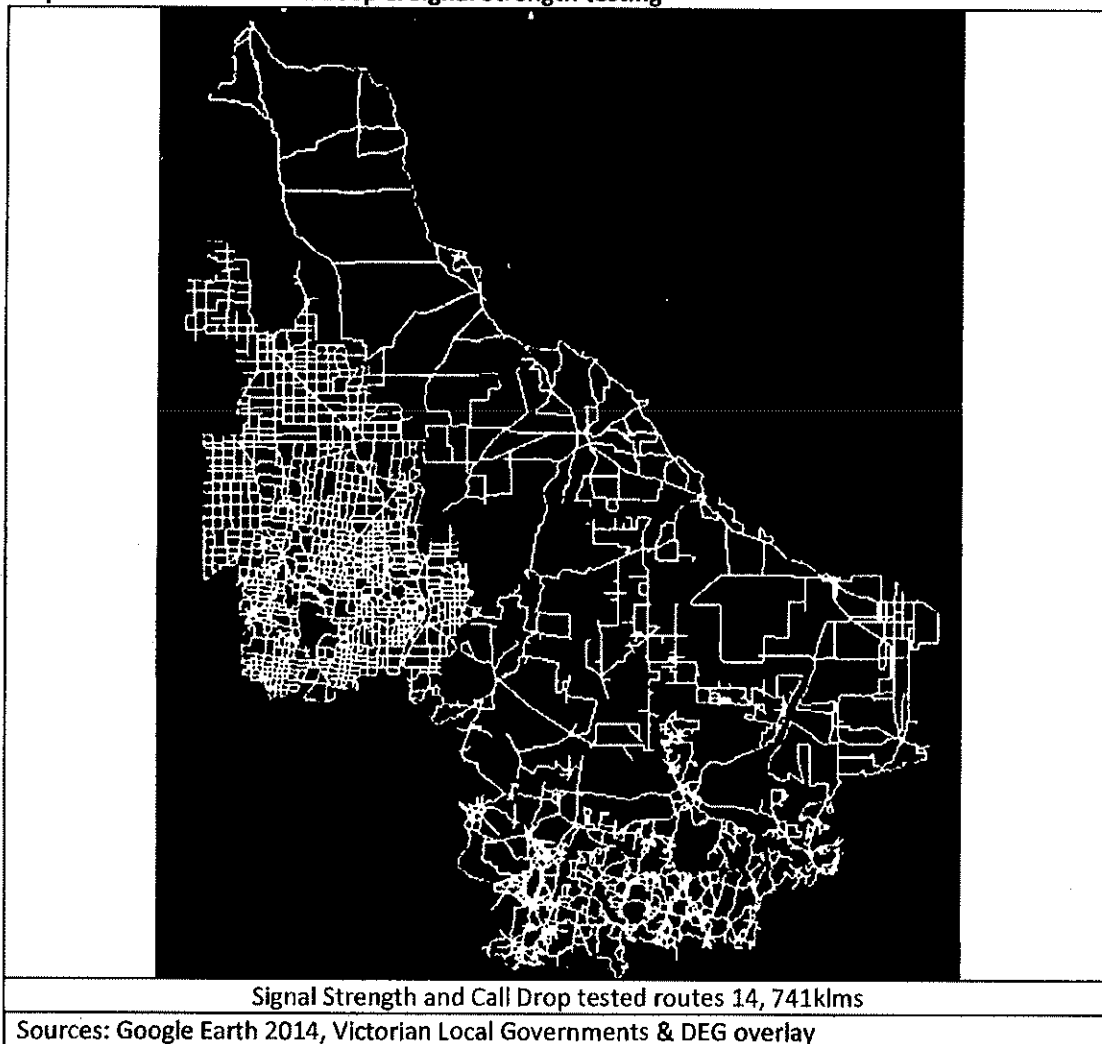
DEG consider the net impact of these issues on the report are considered to be very low to nil.

## Findings

### Tested Routes

A total of approximately 14,741kms of roads were driven across the eight tested Loddon Mallee Councils. A total of 12,067 call drop locations were registered for all three carriers. Signal strength ratings of very poor to black spot were recorded for a total of 3,421 kms for all three carriers in aggregate across all tested local government areas. The breakdown for each local government area can be seen in the Table below.

**Map 9: Routes used for Call Drop & Signal Strength testing**



### Call Drop and Signal Strength Results

Black spots are locations or sections of road where there is no signal or very poor signal. Depending on the handset or location (i.e. indoors, the user may not be able to connect or if they do, the experience is very poor. The identification of a black spot (Map below) begins with the signal strength markers collected across the region.

**Table 6: Call Drop and Signal Strength distance and total number of sample tests for all 3 Carriers.**

Local Government	Kilms driven	samples per Carrier	all 3 Carriers combined
Buloke	5,422	118,440	355,320
Campaspe	1,806	36,120	108,360
Central Goldfields	1,251	25,020	75,060
Gannawarra	1,085	21,700	65,100
Greater Bendigo	1,580	31,600	94,800
Loddon	1,446	28,920	86,760
Mount Alexander	1,183	23,660	70,980
Swan Hill	968	19,360	58,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,707</b>	<b>294,220</b>	<b>882,660</b>

### Overview of results and proposed outcomes for Loddon Mallee

The table below summarises the 17 areas identified as potential candidates for Round 3 of the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) and 33 areas eligible where Loddon Mallee can now advocate for carrier network upgrade or new sites separate to the MBSP

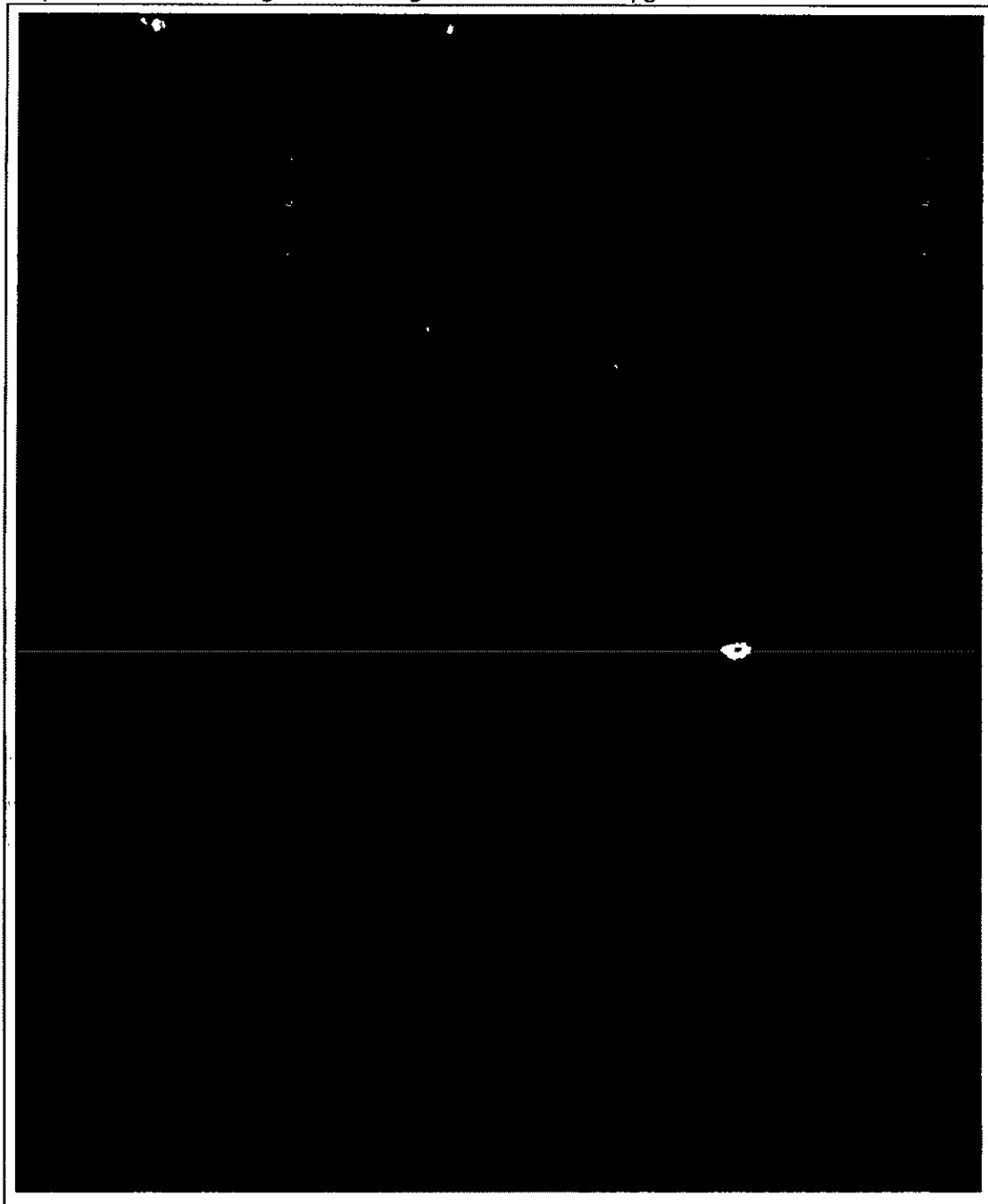
**Table 7: MBSP eligible areas and Carrier priority locations**

Local Government	LGA Total	Number of carrier locations or new sites		
		Telstra	Optus	Vodafone
Buloke	4	1	0	0
Campaspe	0	1	1	1
Central Goldfields	2	0	3	3
Gannawarra	2	1	1	2
Greater Bendigo	1	3	0	4
Loddon	3	1	1	2
Mount Alexander	3	0	1	2
Swan Hill	2	2	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>

\*Mobile Black Spot Program Eligible areas - may need more than one site per area

The Map below shows where these areas are located around the eight Loddon Mallee local government areas tested.

Map 10: Overview of eligible MBSP together with carrier upgrade or new sites

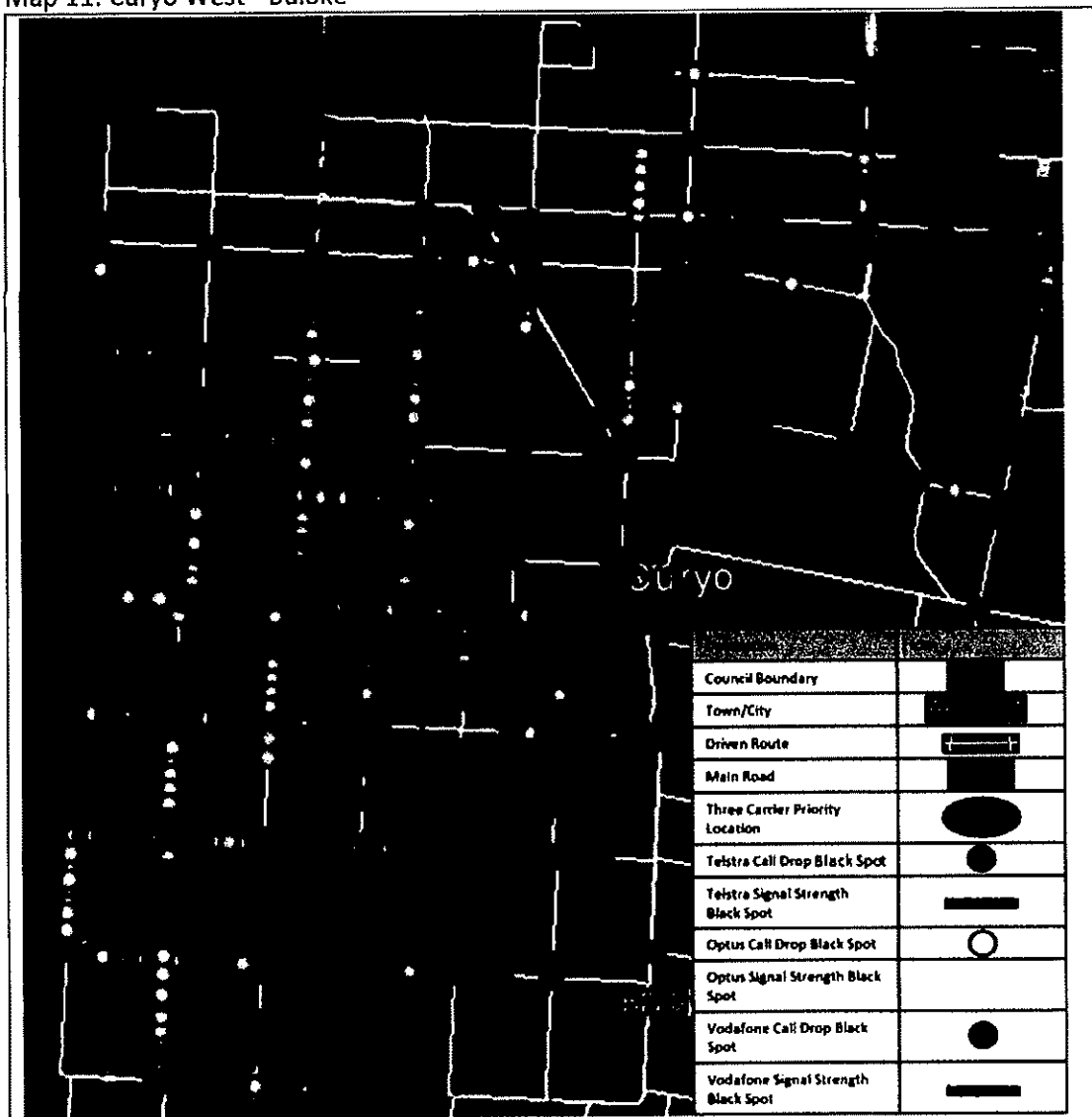


## Assessment of results by local government area

### Buloke Shire Council

Over 5,422km of roads were tested in Buloke Shire Council, more than any other Loddon Mallee LGA. The results show that only the seven major towns in Buloke shire: Birchip, Charlton, Culgoa, Donald, Sea Lake, Nandaly and Wycheproof, have reasonably good coverage by all three carriers. Ten kilometres outside of these centres and pervasive black spots become extensive for all three. Birchip is an exception here as it experiences poor Optus Coverage and is a location where Optus infrastructure needs improving.

Map 11: Curyo West - Buloke

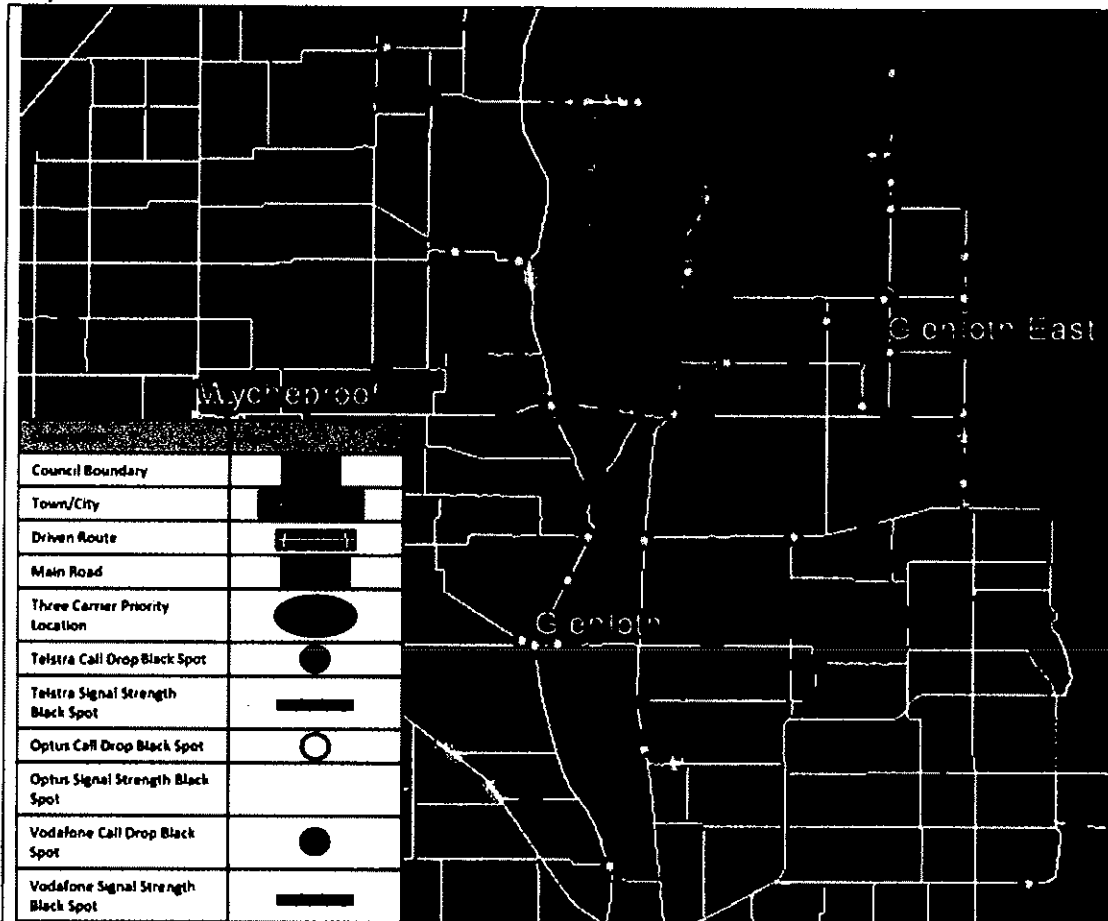


### Candidate MBSP Location: Curyo West

Of these large areas, Curyo West showed the most extensive Call Drop black spot results from all three carriers which means that it is an eligible area to qualify for Round Three of the Mobile Black Spot

Program as its results are the most extensive for all three carriers. This area is so large that it is expected that more than one tower will be required.

Map 12: Glenloth - Buloke



#### Candidate MBSP Location: Glenloth

The area surrounding and immediately to the North East of Glenloth is another major three carrier black spot area, with intermittent coverage from all three at best. A new or upgrade site is needed in this location and with public support should be prioritised within Buloke Shire Council.

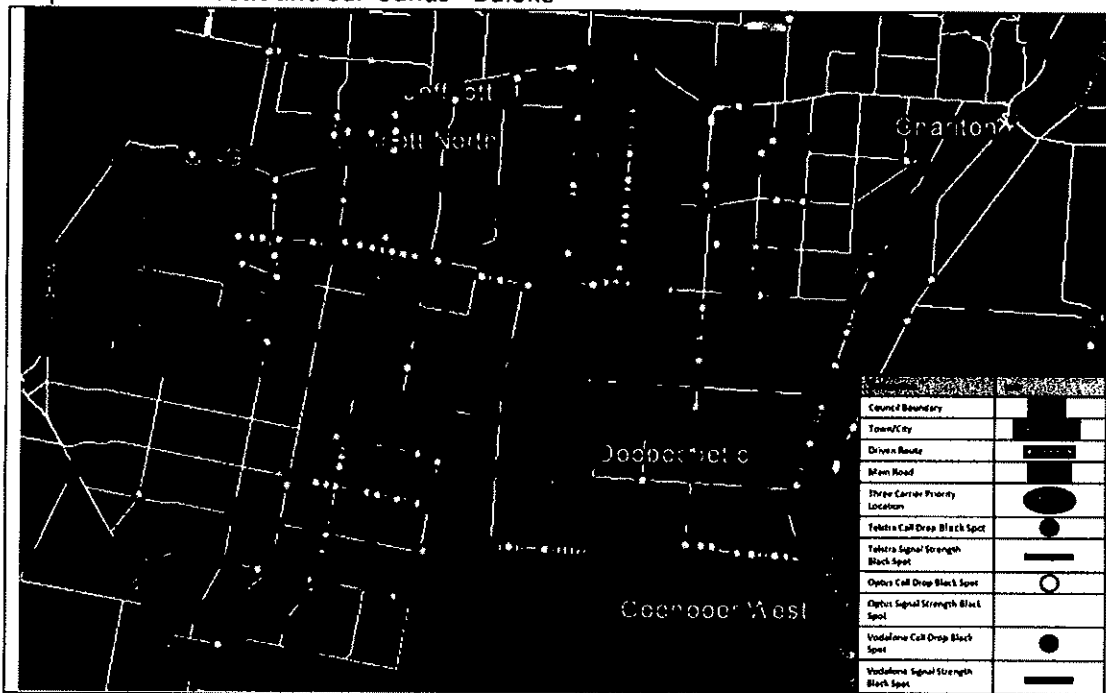
Map 13: Laen North - Buloke



**Candidate MBSP Location: Laen North**

The Laen North area experiences bad coverage from all three carriers, therefore it qualifies as an eligible area for Round 3 of the MBSP. This expansive area and is expected to require more than one tower

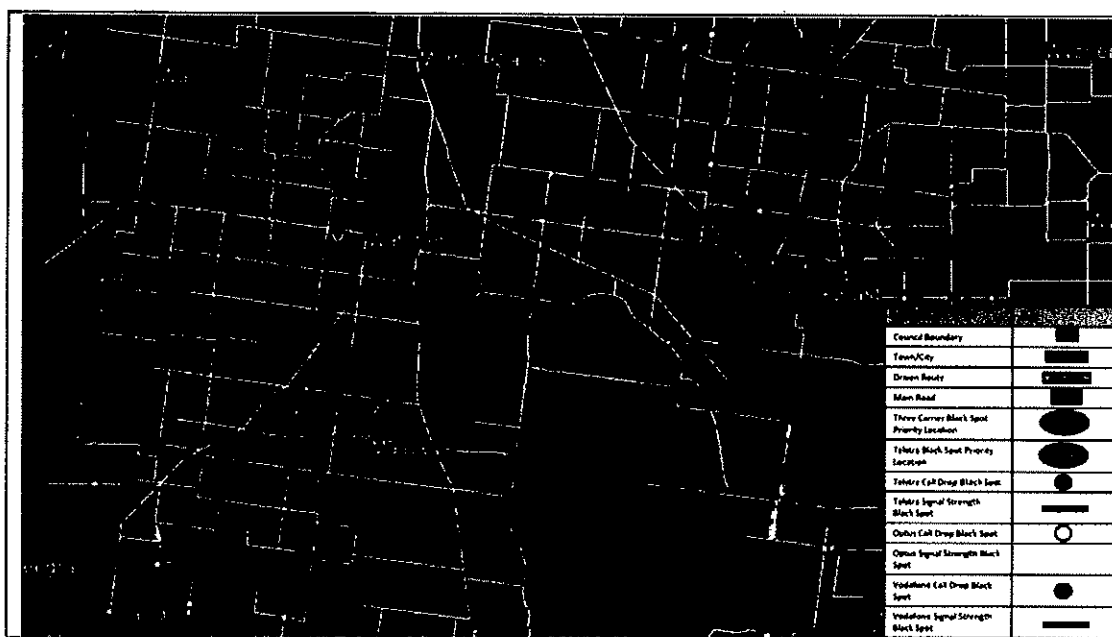
Map 14: Dooboobetic and Surrounds - Buloke



**Candidate MBSP Location: Dooboobetic and Surrounds**

Through Dooboobetic, South of Jeffcott and South East of Donald, there is very poor Optus and Vodafone coverage with frequent Telstra black spots. This area qualifies for Round 3 of the MBSP, and as a large area is expected to require more than one tower.

Map 15: Massey-Corack East - Buloke



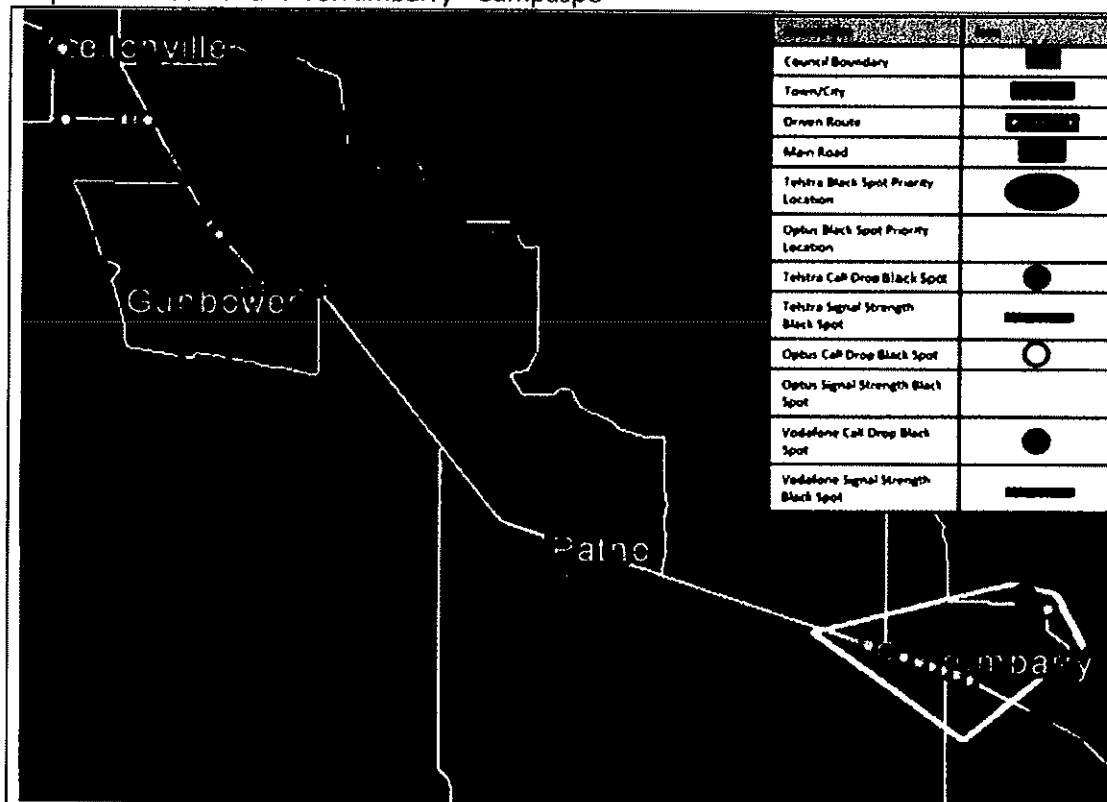
**Candidate Telstra Upgrade or New Site Location: Massey-Corack East**

The Massey to Corack East area is a major Telstra black spot area, which requires improved infrastructure from Telstra. Due to the large area of this black spot, more than one tower will be necessary.

### Campaspe Shire Council

Major centres such as Echuca and Kyabram present good coverage from all three carriers. Of the 1,800 klm of roads driven in Campaspe only 200klm were black spots by any of the three. Campaspe also recorded the least number of Telstra and Optus Call Drop black spots than any other council. Due not only to a low number of black spots in Campaspe, but also good Optus and Telstra results, there are no areas within Campaspe that are eligible for funding in the Mobile Black Spot Program. In many respects this is good news for Campaspe as there is mobile connectivity by at least one carrier throughout the Shire, however this also means that Campaspe is unlikely to receive Commonwealth funding for the black spots that do exist in their region. For this report, black spot location have been identified for each carrier which are recommended for further investment by the carrier.

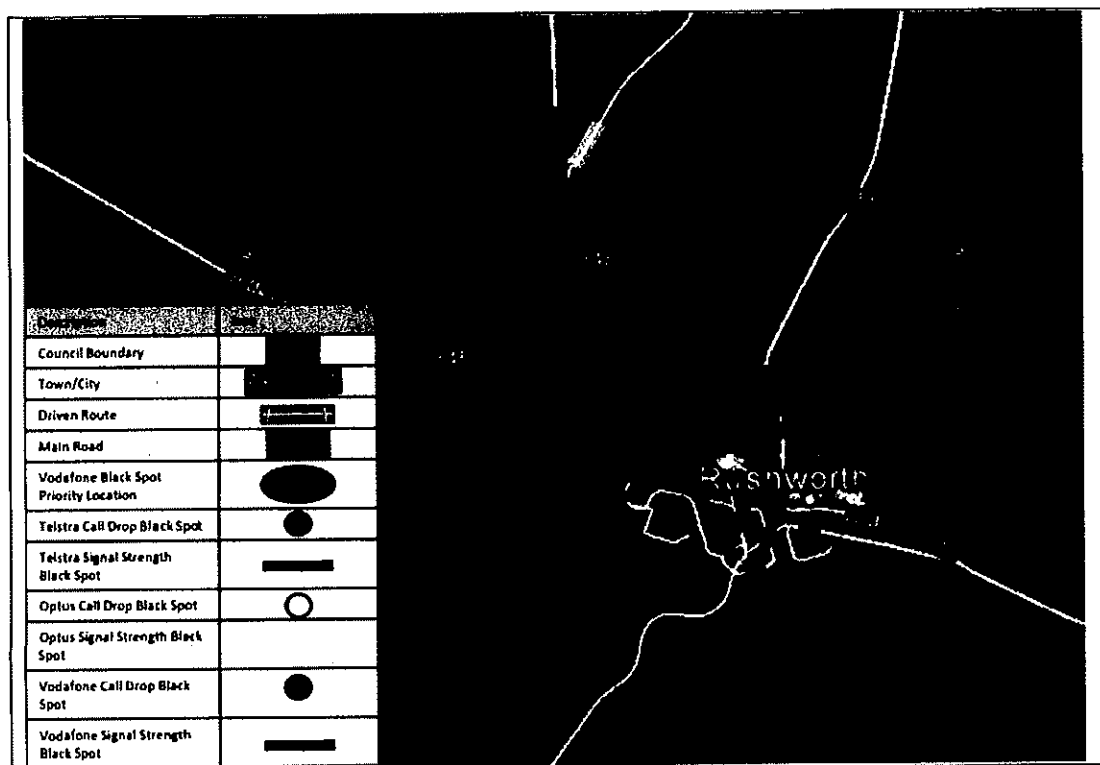
Map 16: Gunbower and Torrumbarry - Campaspe



#### **Candidate Telstra and Optus Upgrade or New Site Locations: Gunbower and Torrumbarry**

Telstra's largest black spot in Campaspe Shire is located at Gunbower, where either upgraded infrastructure or a new tower will greatly enhance Telstra coverage for residents in this area. The largest Optus black spot in Campaspe Shire is located at Torrumbarry, on the Murray Valley Highway. A new Optus tower of upgraded Optus infrastructure here would improve Optus' coverage in Campaspe greatly.

Map 17: Rushworth - Campaspe



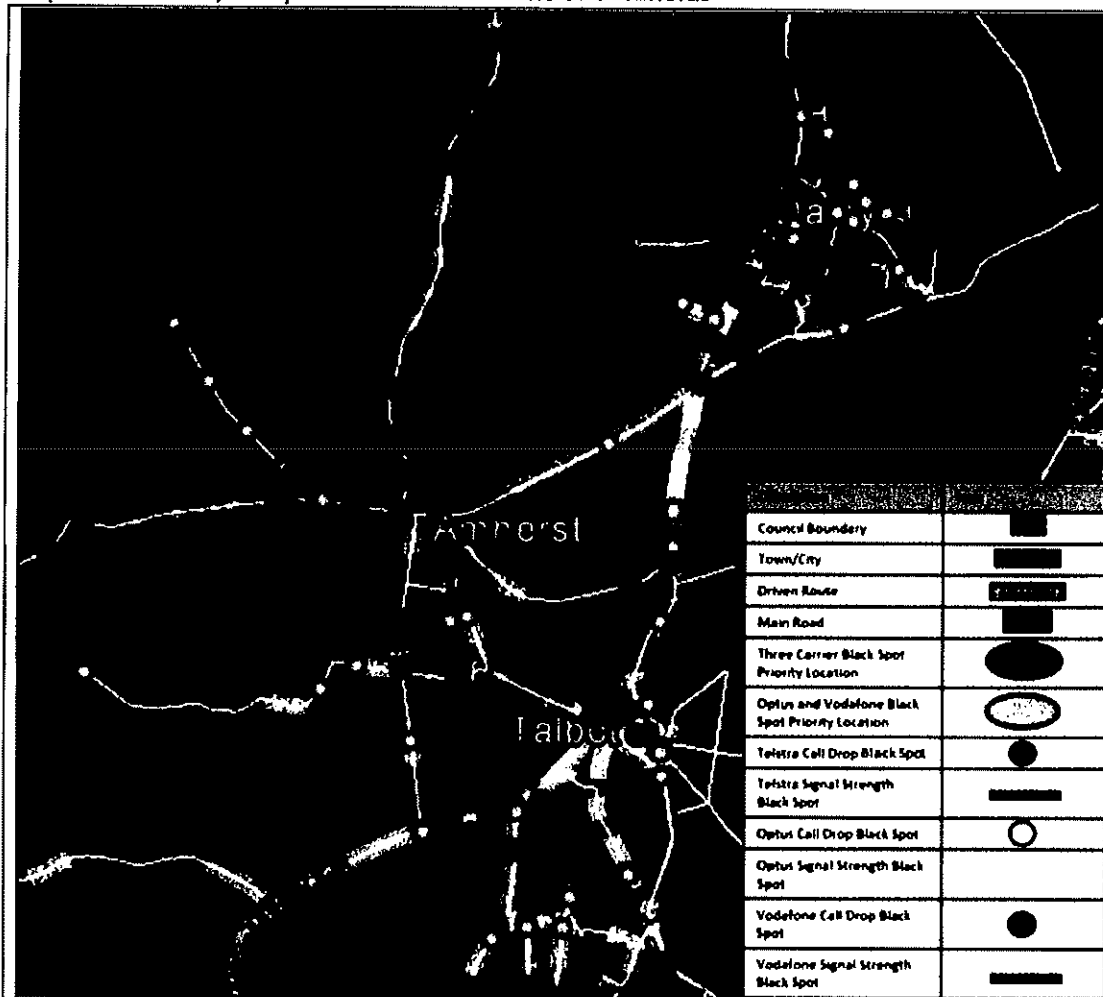
#### Candidate Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Rushworth

Rushworth, as a major centre, experiences a total Vodafone coverage black spot in the largest and most populated area of Vodafone's black spot in Rushworth. Major infrastructure improvements by Vodafone in Rushworth is needed

### Central Goldfields Shire Council

Central Goldfields Shire has some of the poorest black spot results in the Loddon Mallee Region given its size. This can be attributed to lack of investment by the mobile carriers and the hilly topography which affects mobile propagation. Almost half of all 1,250 klms of roads tested in the Shire were black spots by any of the three carriers. Maryborough is the only centre with good coverage in its suburban extent, however black spots begin to occur in its periphery, such as Maryborough Airport, 3klm from the town centre.

**Map 18: Amherst, Daisy Hill and Talbot - Central Goldfields**



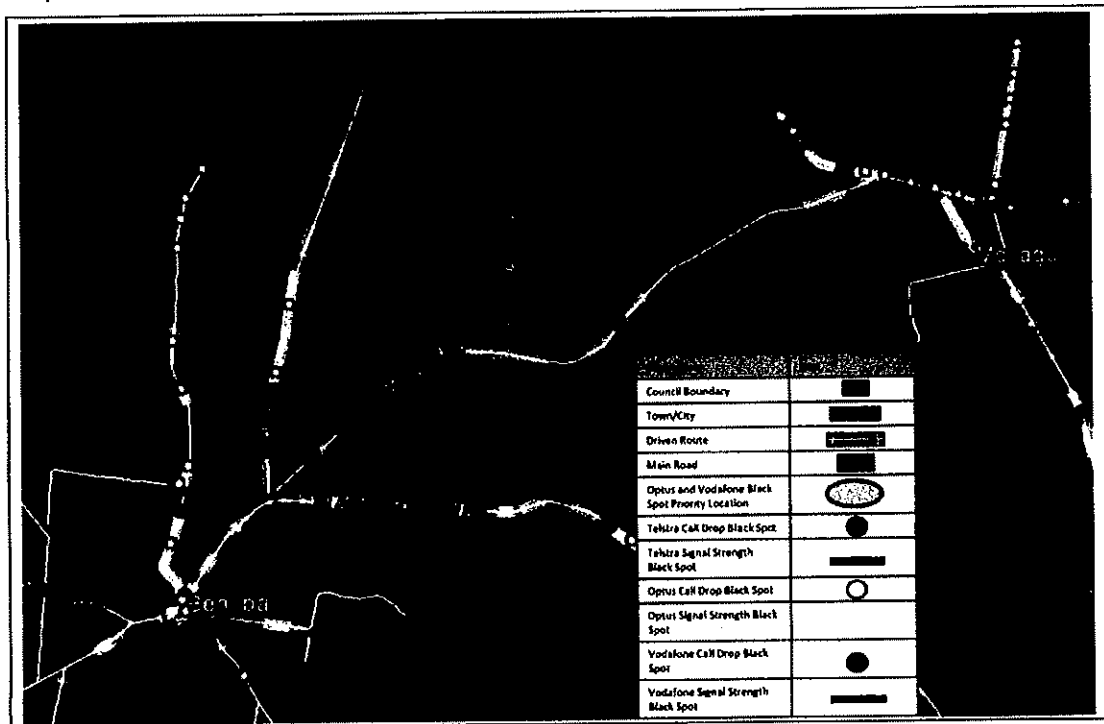
#### **Candidates MBSP Locations: Amherst and Daisy Hill**

The valley south of Maryborough has extensive black spots from all three carriers, affecting the towns of Amherst and Daisy Hill. Serious investment is needed in this area, and both locations qualify for the MBSP, one tower in each location.

#### **Candidate for Optus and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Talbot**

Talbot experiences reasonable Telstra coverage, however is a black spot location for both Optus and Vodafone. Although Talbot does not qualify for the MBSP, it is a high priority location recommended for Central Goldfields.

Map 19: Bealiba and Moliagul - Central Goldfields



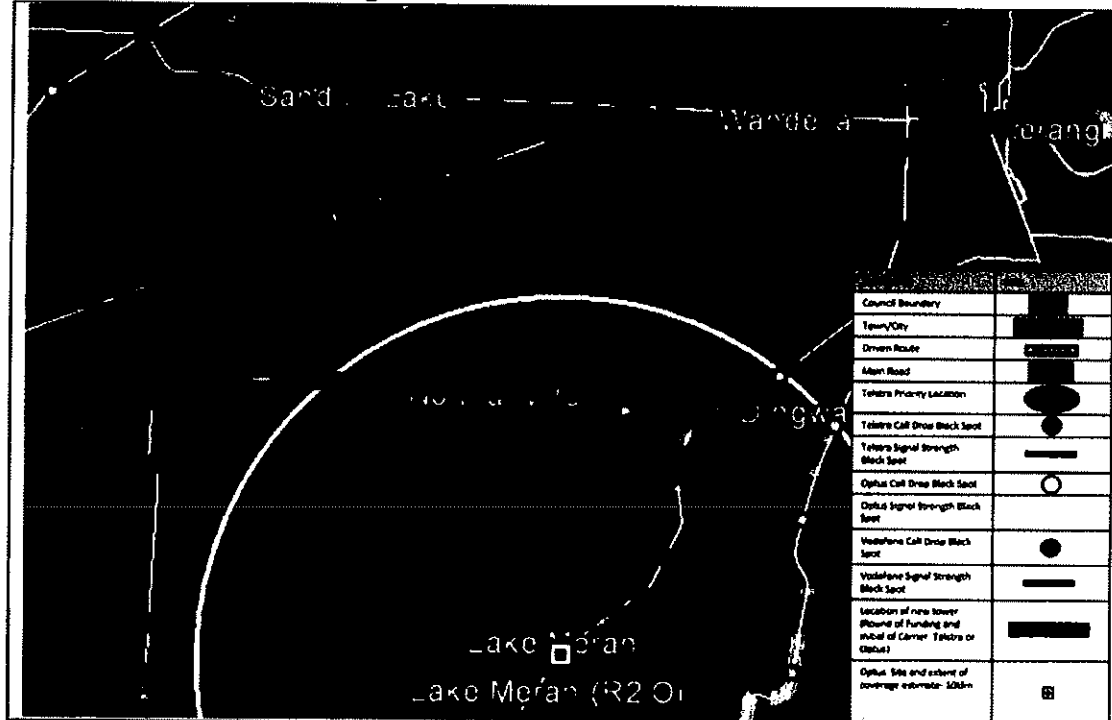
**Candidate Optus and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Locations: Bealiba and Moliagul**

The rural agricultural communities on Bealiba and Moliagul have almost no Optus or Vodafone coverage at all and Telstra coverage in these communities is intermittent at best. Major infrastructure from both carriers and minor Telstra improvements are needed in both of these communities.

### Gannawarra Shire Council

Gannawarra has a large number of black spot areas, particularly from Telstra and Vodafone. Whilst about a quarter of the 1,085 klm roads tested were black spots, Gannawarra recorded the third highest number of Call Drop black spot results for Telstra and Optus and the second highest for Vodafone. Poor coverage results in Campaspe are largely spread out and located on rural and major rural routes.

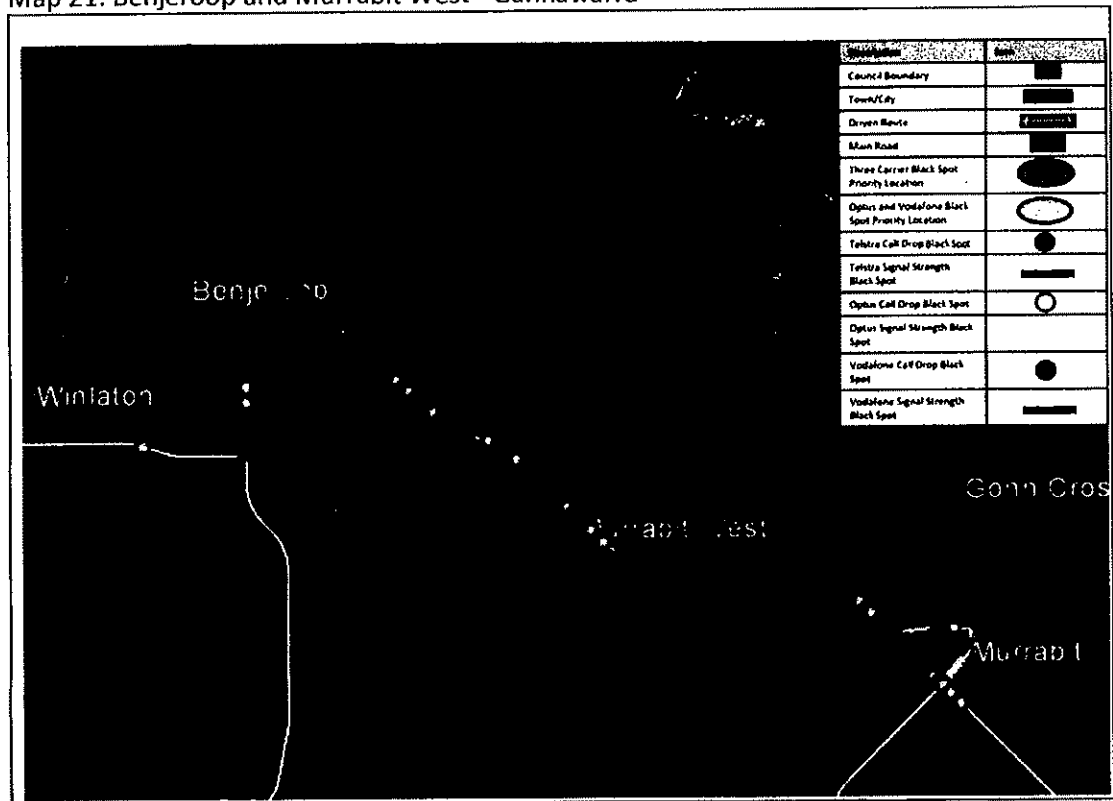
**Map 20: South West of Kerang - Gannawarra**



### **Candidate MBSP Location: South West of Kerang**

Roads including Kerang-Quambatook Road, Lalbert-Kerang Road and Normanville Road present extensive black spots from all three carriers. This covers a large, rural, relatively flat agricultural area. Investment by either Carrier would improve the connectivity of this area greatly, and qualifies for funding under the MBSP. As shown in the above figure a Round 2 Optus site at Lake Meran should provide coverage for part of this priority location. Although this will provide coverage for part of the identified priority zone, to fully ensure coverage in this area a strategically placed second and perhaps third tower are required to provide coverage to the priority location.

Map 21: Benjeroop and Murrabit West - Gannawarra



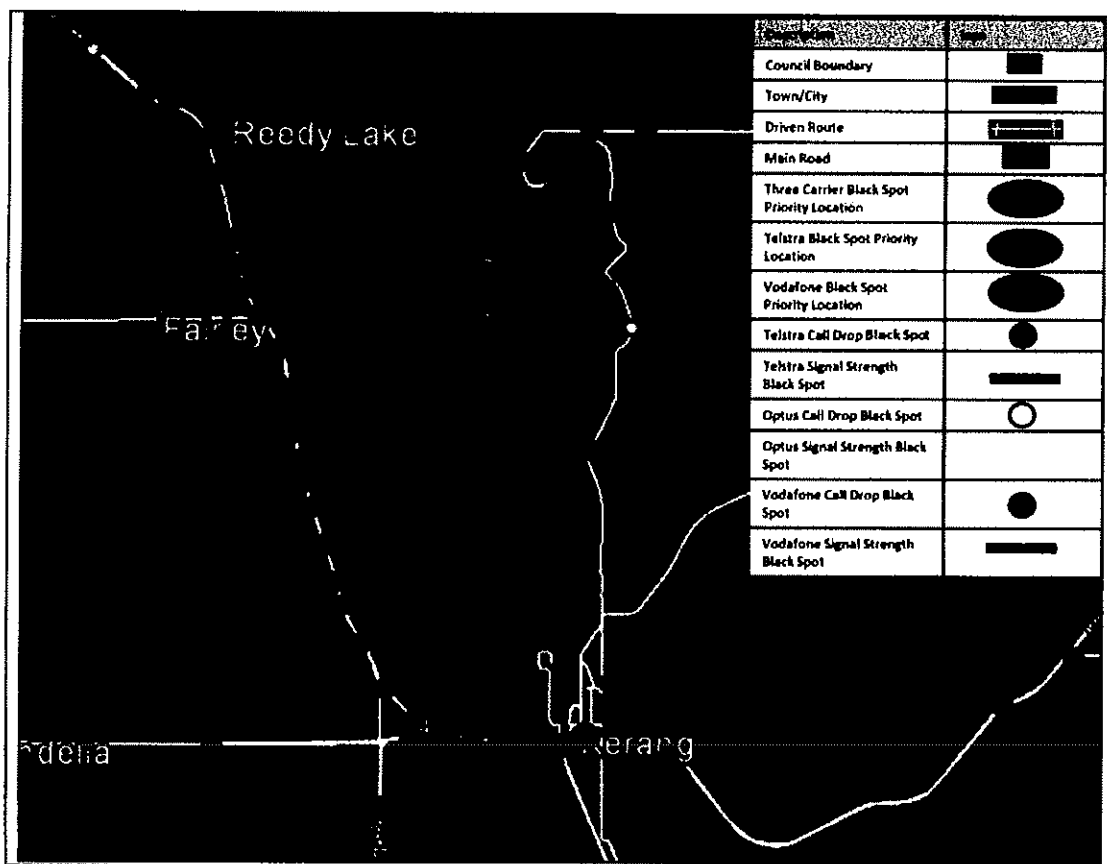
#### Candidate MBSP Location: Benjeroop and Murrabit West

The Roads between Benjeroop and Murrabit West present pervasive black spot tracts by all three carriers in this large flat agricultural area. Investment in mobile connectivity in this area is needed and qualifies for Round 3 of the MBSP. Due to the large area of this black spot, more than one tower is likely.

#### Candidate Optus and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Murrabit West

The adjacent region covering Murrabit and Gonn Crossing is an Optus and Vodafone black spot area which needs investment from both carriers and should be prioritised by Gannawarra Shire Council.

Map 22: Kerang to Reedy Lake and North Kerang - Gannawarra



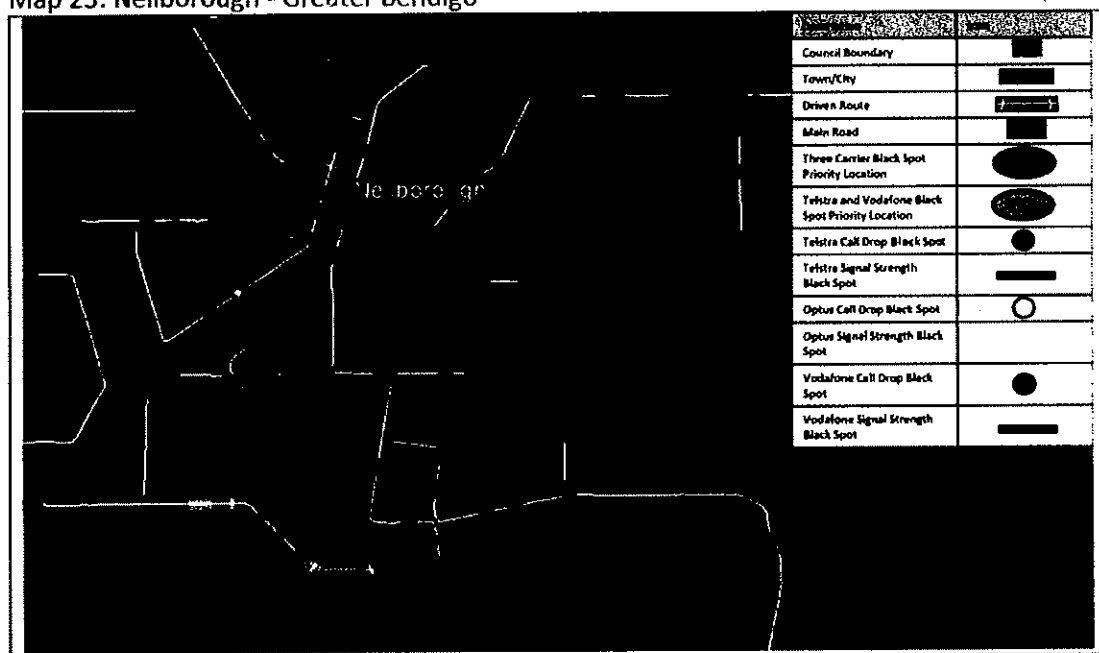
#### Candidate Telstra and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Locations: Kerang to Reedy Lake and North Kerang

Whilst regional centre Cohuna has good coverage from all three, major centre Kerang has extensive Vodafone black spots and Telstra has an extensive black spot tract between Kerang and Reedy Lake. As a major transportation route between Swan Hill and southern cities, it is recommended that improved Telstra infrastructure is invested along this route. Improvements by Vodafone in Kerang should also be prioritised.

### City of Greater Bendigo

The City of Greater Bendigo tested more kms of roads than any other council in the region with the exception of Buloke and Campaspe Shires, which are much larger and sparsely populated. This would be due to the testing methods undertaken by this council<sup>5</sup>. The city suburban extent itself is reasonably black spot free with some small exceptions, particularly with Vodafone in Quarry Hill. However, there are a number of rural areas within the council which are black spot prone from either of the three carriers.

**Map 23: Neilborough - Greater Bendigo**

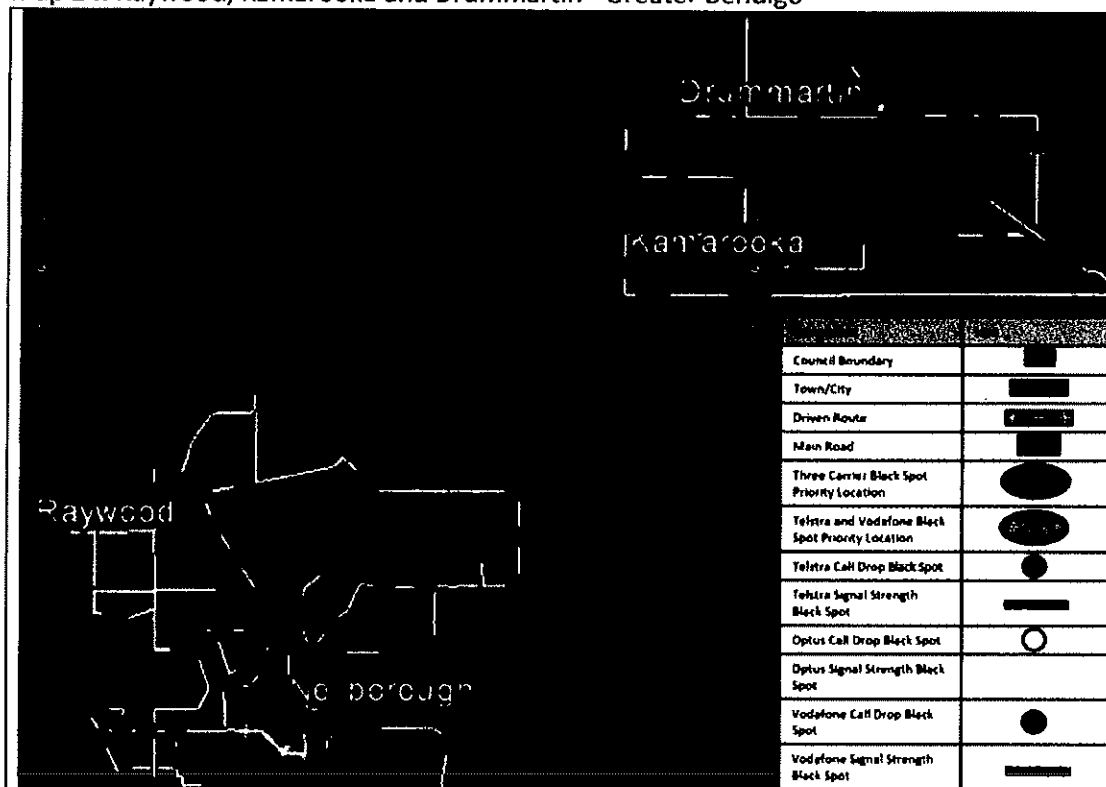


#### **Candidate MBSP Location: Neilborough**

Throughout Greater Bendigo, there are many black spot areas which will require investment, however Neilborough is the only location which is eligible for funding under the MBSP. One strategically placed tower should be sufficient in the Neilborough area, excluding any major geographical hindrances.

<sup>5</sup> The testing equipment was used in the Council rubbish trucks.

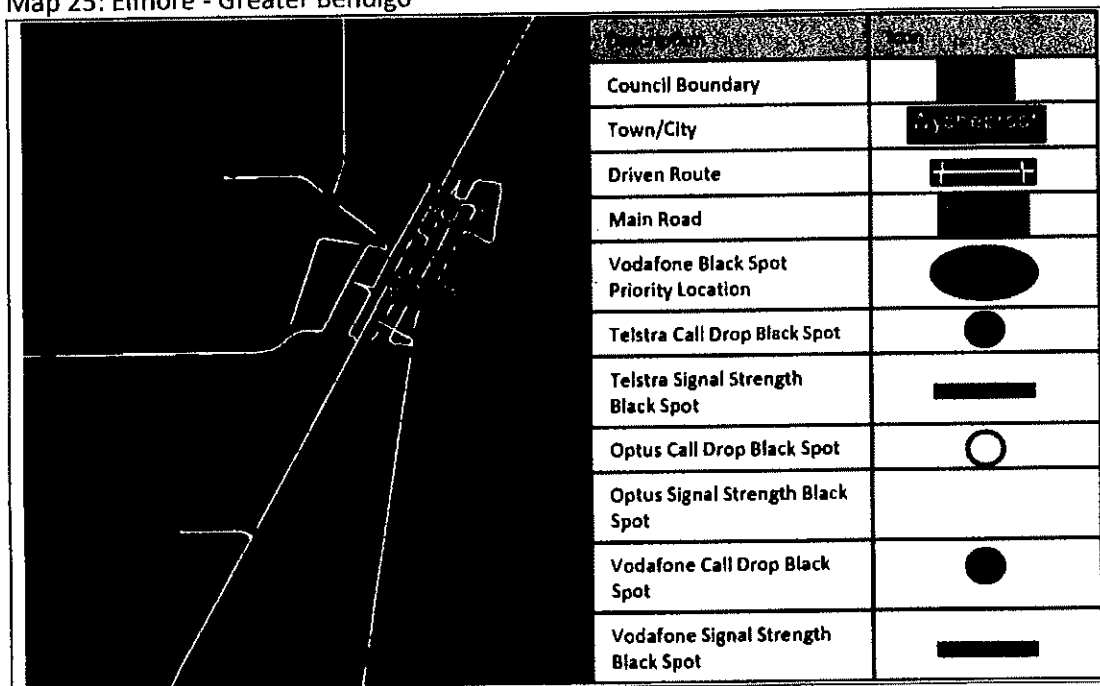
Map 24: Raywood, Kamarooka and Drummartin - Greater Bendigo



#### Candidate Telstra and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site locations: Raywood, Kamarooka and Drummartin

Raywood, Kamarooka and Drummartin have reasonable Optus Coverage however Telstra and Vodafone coverage is poor and major infrastructure improvements are needed in these locations. Due to distance covered by these locations, two towers are likely to be needed.

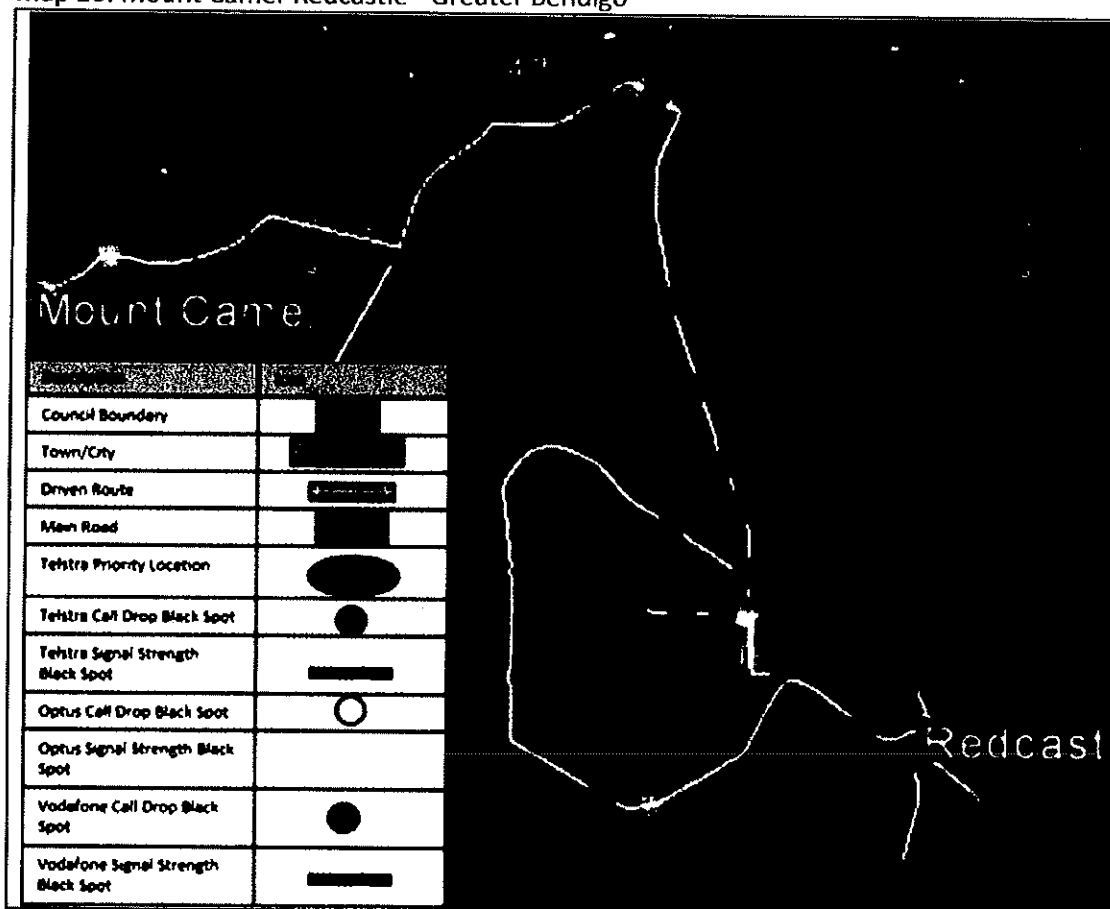
Map 25: Elmore - Greater Bendigo



#### Candidate Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Elmore

Elmore experiences good coverage from both Telstra and Optus, however Vodafone is almost non-existent in this town and Elmore residents should be aware of this until Vodafone coverage is established.

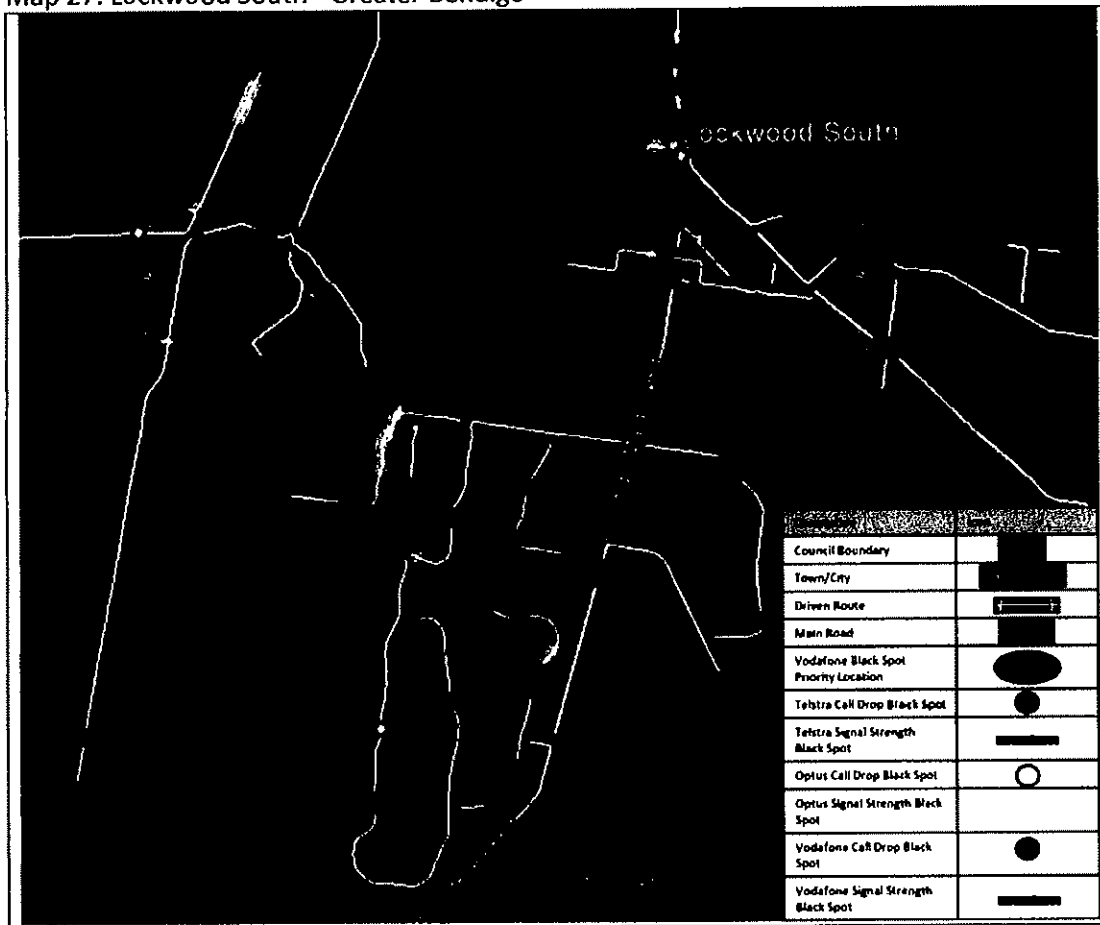
Map 26: Mount Camel-Redcastle - Greater Bendigo



#### Candidate Telstra Upgrade or New Site Location: Mount Camel-Redcastle

The Mount Camel-Redcastle area may be sparsely populated, however it is a noticeable Telstra black spot location in Greater Bendigo. Improved Telstra infrastructure would greatly enhance the Telstra coverage in this part of the Greater Bendigo council area.

Map 27: Lockwood South - Greater Bendigo



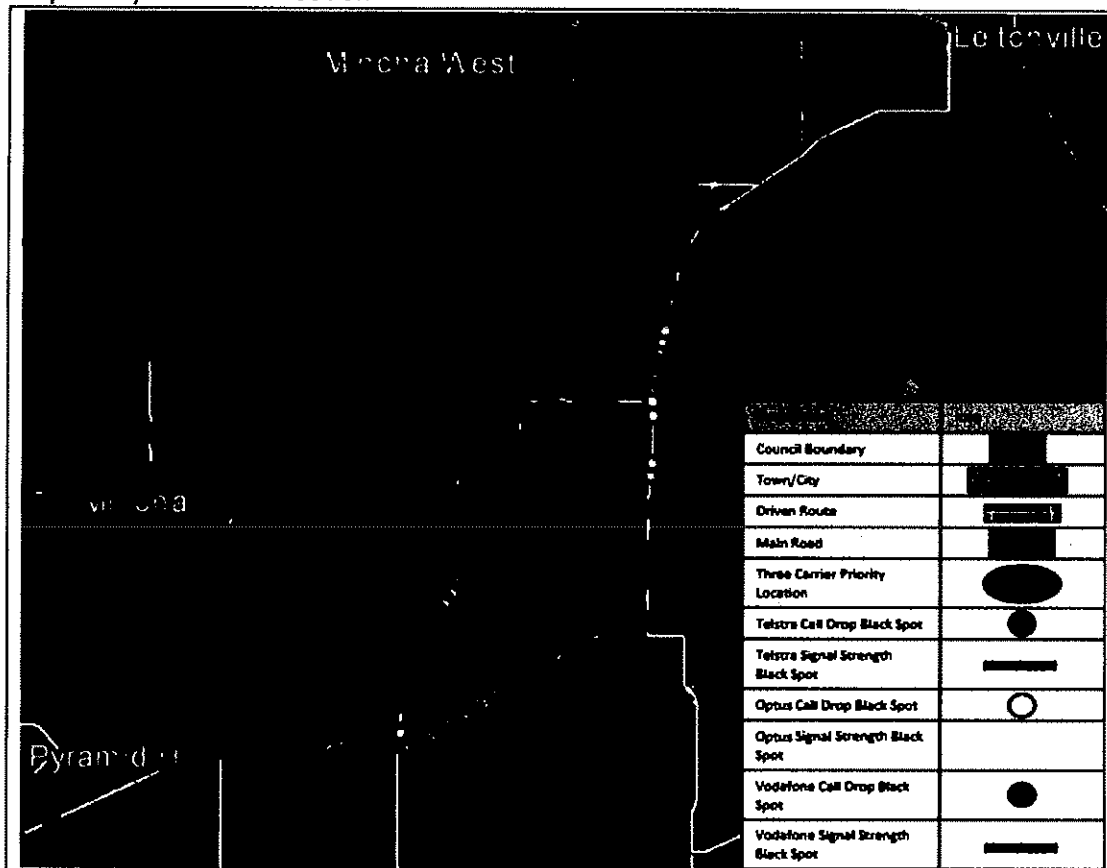
**Candidate Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Lockwood South**

Lockwood South is a growing semiurban region in Greater Bendigo which will need improved Vodafone infrastructure and perhaps future investment from Optus and Telstra as the region grows in population. A new Vodafone tower in this area would greatly enhance the telecom competition in Southern Greater Bendigo.

### Loddon Shire Council

Loddon Shire Council is one of the largest in the Loddon-Mallee region with a sparsely populated, agricultural economy. Results from Loddon show that it has the second highest number of Call Drop black spots from Telstra and Optus and third highest from Vodafone: 331, 552, and 810 respectively. Loddon also has the highest number of Vodafone black spot klms than any other council with 438klm out of a total 1,446klm driven.

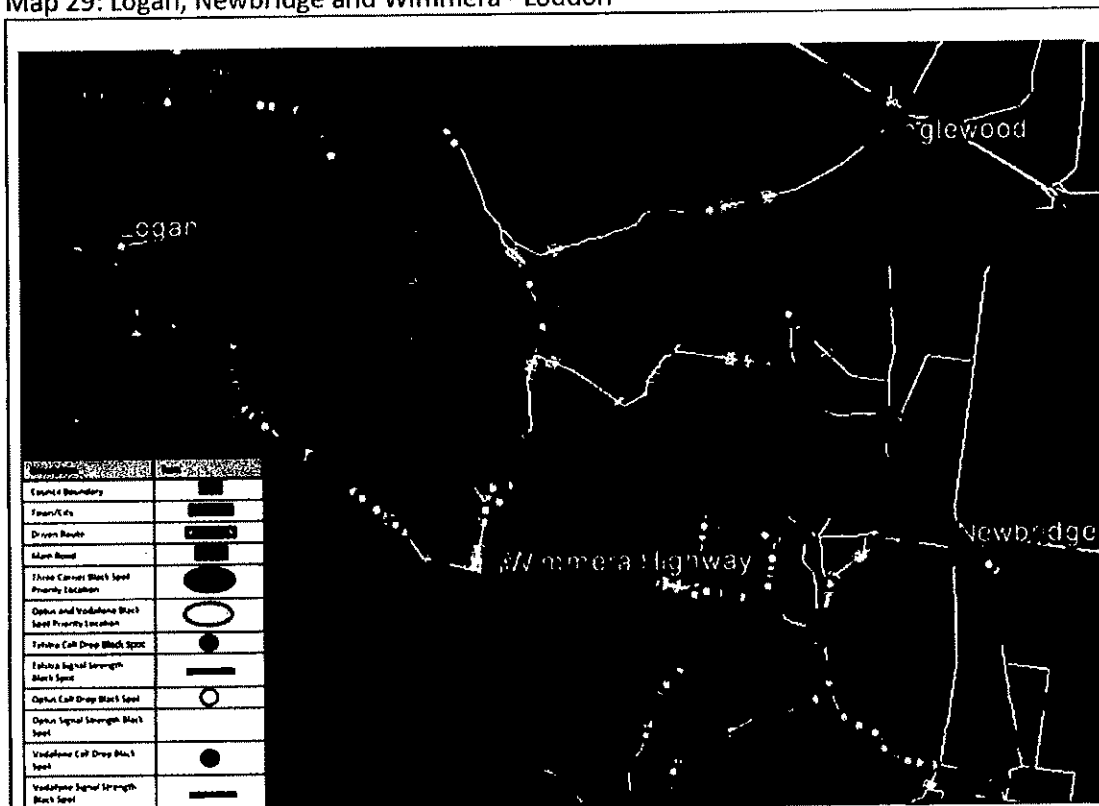
Map 28: Pyramid Hill - Loddon



### **Candidate MBSP Location: Pyramid Hill**

Within Pyramid Hill and in particular the road towards Leitchville is an extensive black spot location of all three carriers and is a location which is eligible for MBSP funding. It is likely due to the vast area covered by this priority location that two new towers will be necessary. However, the main road from Pyramid Hill towards Boort and Wedderburn, as well as and other surroundings areas are all black spot prone from any of the three carriers and investment to this region is needed.

Map 29: Logan, Newbridge and Wimmera - Loddon



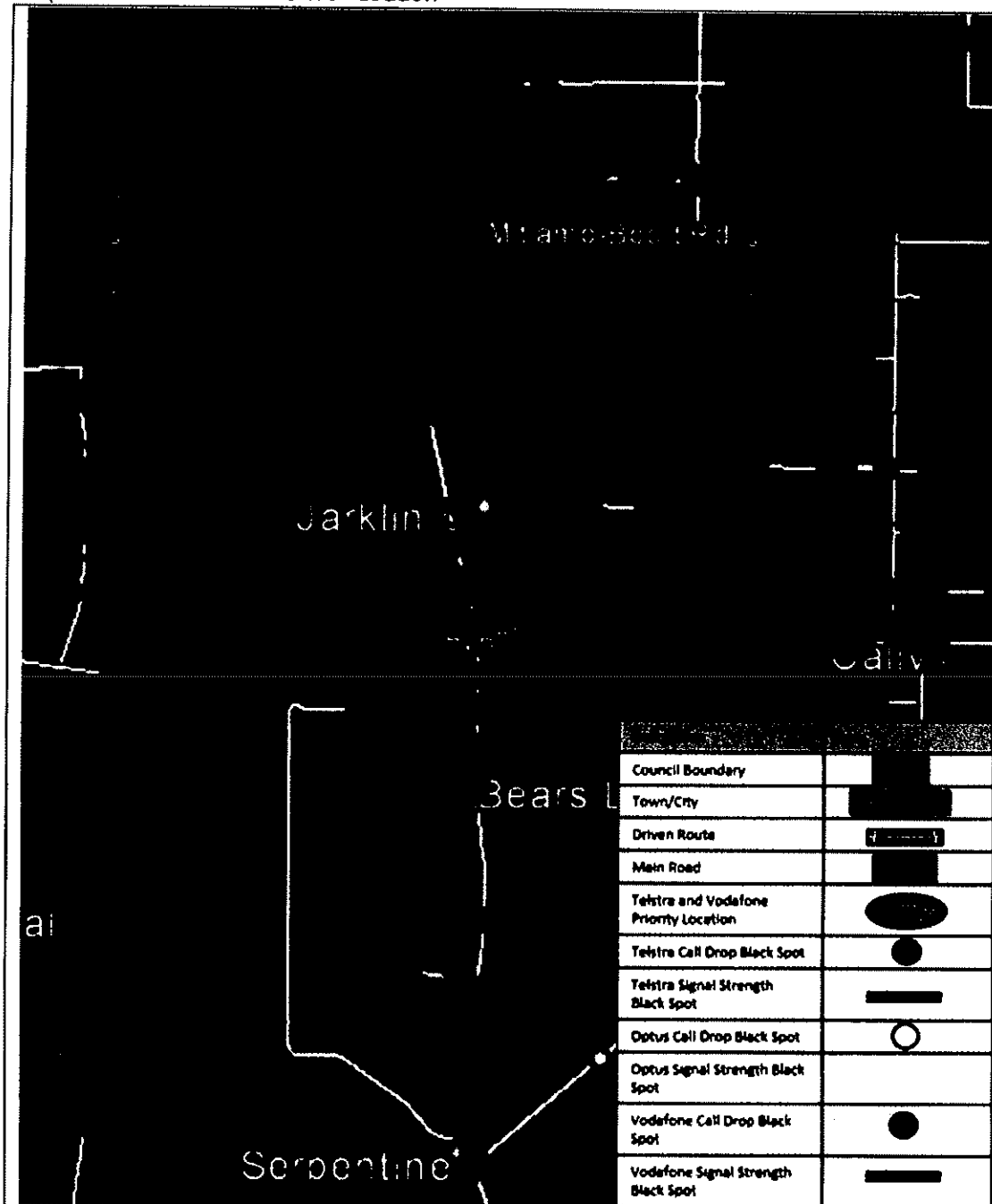
#### Candidate MBSP Locations Logan and Newbridge

Most of the roads in this southern part of the shire are extensive black spots areas with virtually no Optus or Vodafone coverage. Telstra has intermittent coverage and as the major transportation route between Bendigo and Horsham, major improvements are necessary. In particular Logan and Newbridge both are eligible for funding in Round 3 of the MBSP, with a new tower in each location.

#### Candidate Optus and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Wimmera Highway

Improvements in infrastructure by Optus and Vodafone along the Wimmera Highway between Logan and Newbridge is recommended as a high priority for Loddon Shire Council. Due to the large area covered, up to 5 or 6 new towers may be necessary. Improved infrastructure by Telstra and Vodafone should also be prioritised by Loddon Shire Council in Inglewood due to poor coverage by both carriers.

Map 30: Jarklin and Surrounds - Loddon



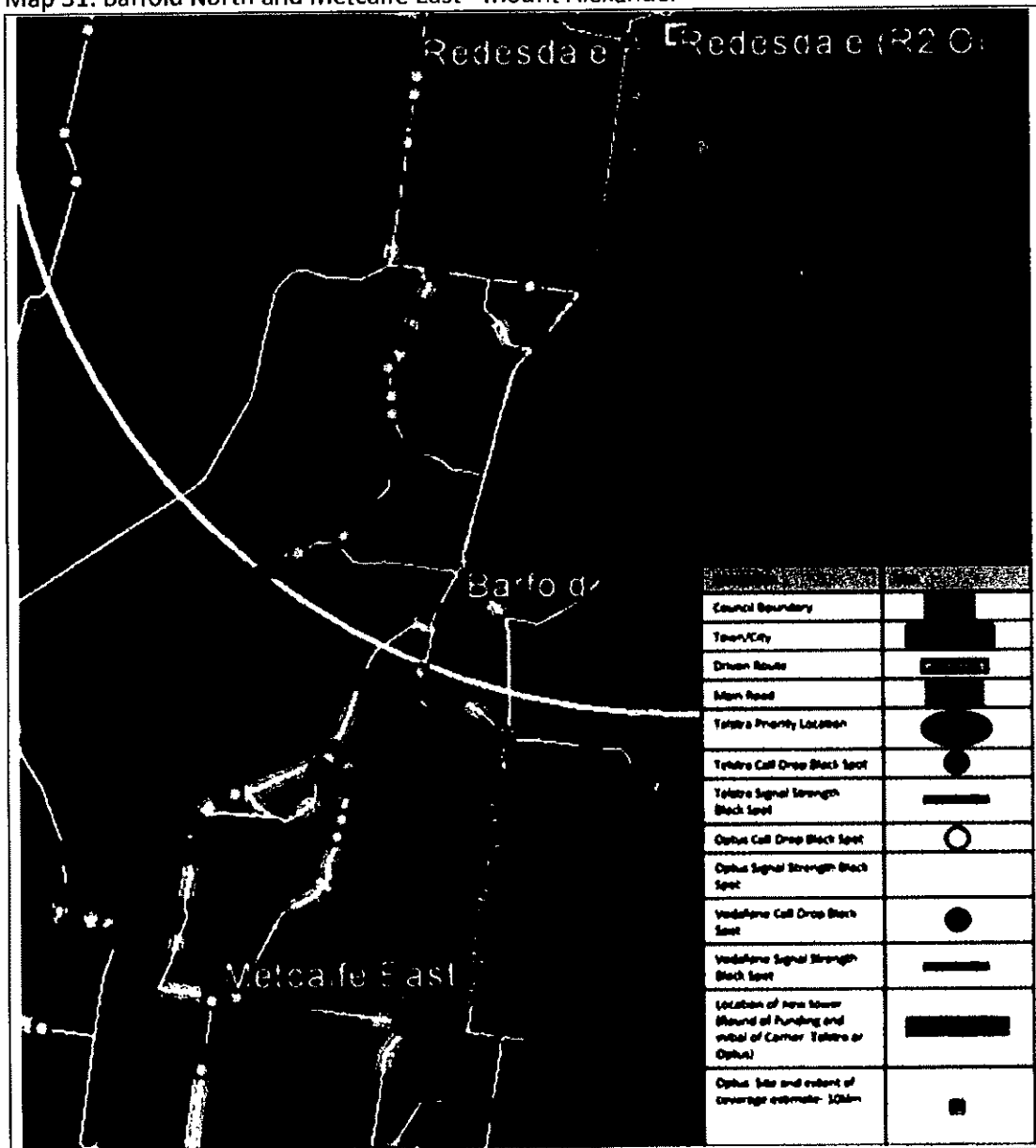
#### Candidate Telstra and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site location: Jarklin and Surrounds

The Eastern part of Loddon Shire is the most sparsely populated and primarily a flat agricultural area. Optus has reasonably good coverage here, Telstra has poor coverage surrounding Jarklin and Vodafone poor all over. Improved infrastructure by either Vodafone or Telstra would enhance the coverage surrounding Jarklin, though due to the size more than one tower will be necessary. Improvements by Optus and Vodafone should also be considered in Serpentine.

### Mount Alexander Shire Council

Mount Alexander Council has reasonably good results with the lowest klms of black spots for Telstra at just 18klm and an average result for Optus and Vodafone in comparison to the other councils, however there are still large areas of black spots.

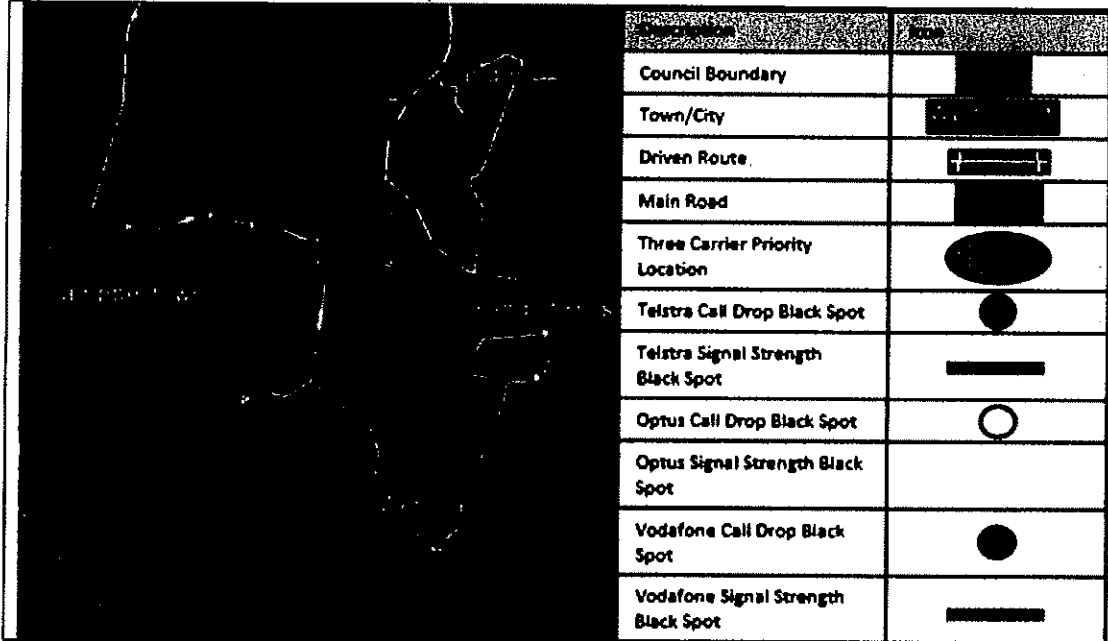
Map 31: Barfold North and Metcalfe East - Mount Alexander



### **Candidate MBSP Location: Barfold North and Metcalfe East**

On the eastern side of the Calder Freeway, all three carriers have poor coverage, particularly from Barfold North to Metcalfe East. The poor coverage here makes this area eligible for the MBSP. As shown by yellow circle of the Round 2 funded Optus tower at Redesdale, the Barfold part of this priority location should be covered by the planned tower. However, a second tower closer to Metcalfe East would completely cover the black spot areas as identified in this report.

Map 32: Sandon and Werona Valley - Mount Alexander



#### Candidate MBSP Location: Sandon and Werona Valley

The agricultural area in the Southwest of Mount Alexander, experiences intermittent and poor coverage from all three carriers. Therefore, this region is eligible for funding under Round 3 of the MBSP. Due to the geographical constraints in this area, two towers may be necessary, for full coverage.

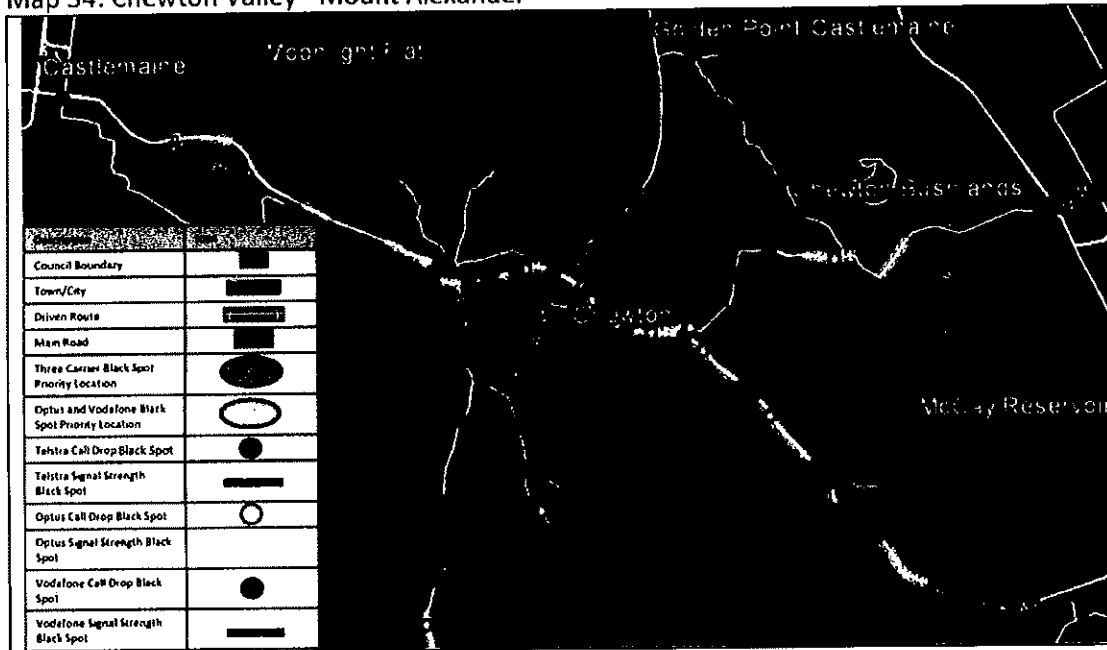
Map 33: North Fryerstown - Mount Alexander



#### Candidate MBSP Location: North Fryerstown

The area just north of Fryerstown experiences poor coverage from all three carriers, primarily due to its mountainous terrain. As shown in the blue circle, the Round 1 funded Telstra at Guildford is expected to provide coverage over this black spot location. However, due to the distance and presence of geographical features, it is unlikely that the Guildford site will have much impact on North Fryerstown. Therefore, this area is still eligible for funding under Round 3 of the MBSP.

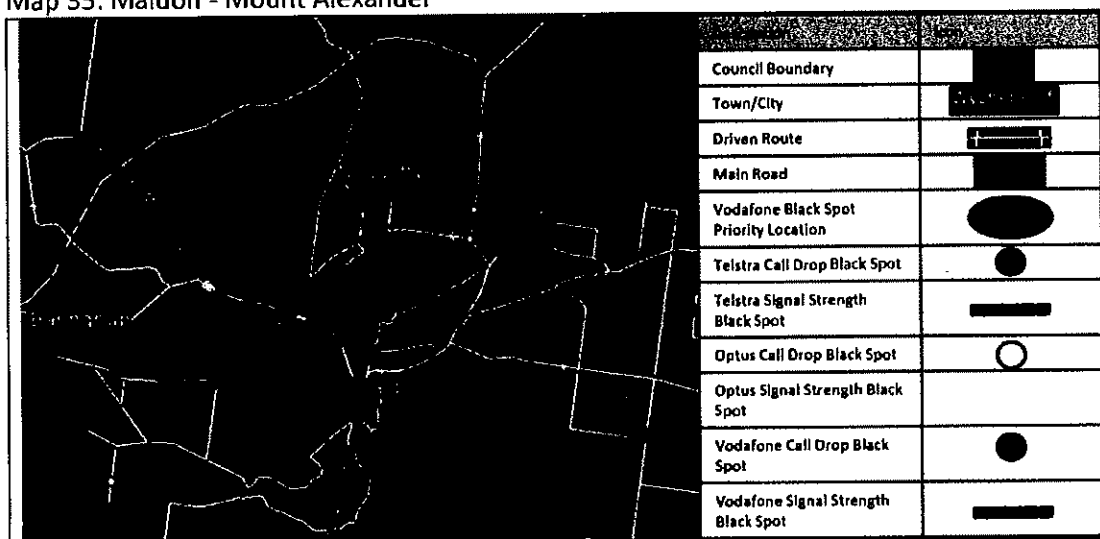
Map 34: Chewton Valley - Mount Alexander



#### Candidate Optus and Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Chewton Valley

The Chewton Valley is a semi urban area within Mount Alexander and hosts the main road and rail transportation routes between Castlemaine and Melbourne. Yet despite the importance of this region, Optus and Vodafone coverage is sub-par. Although the geographical element affects the signal strength in this area as exemplified by the occasional Telstra black spot, which as it is less than 1klm of road it is not significant enough to require Telstra to upgrade at this stage, improvements in infrastructure by both Optus and Vodafone should be prioritised by Mount Alexander Shire Council. Also, due to the geographical constraints and size of the priority area, more than one tower will be required.

Map 35: Maldon - Mount Alexander



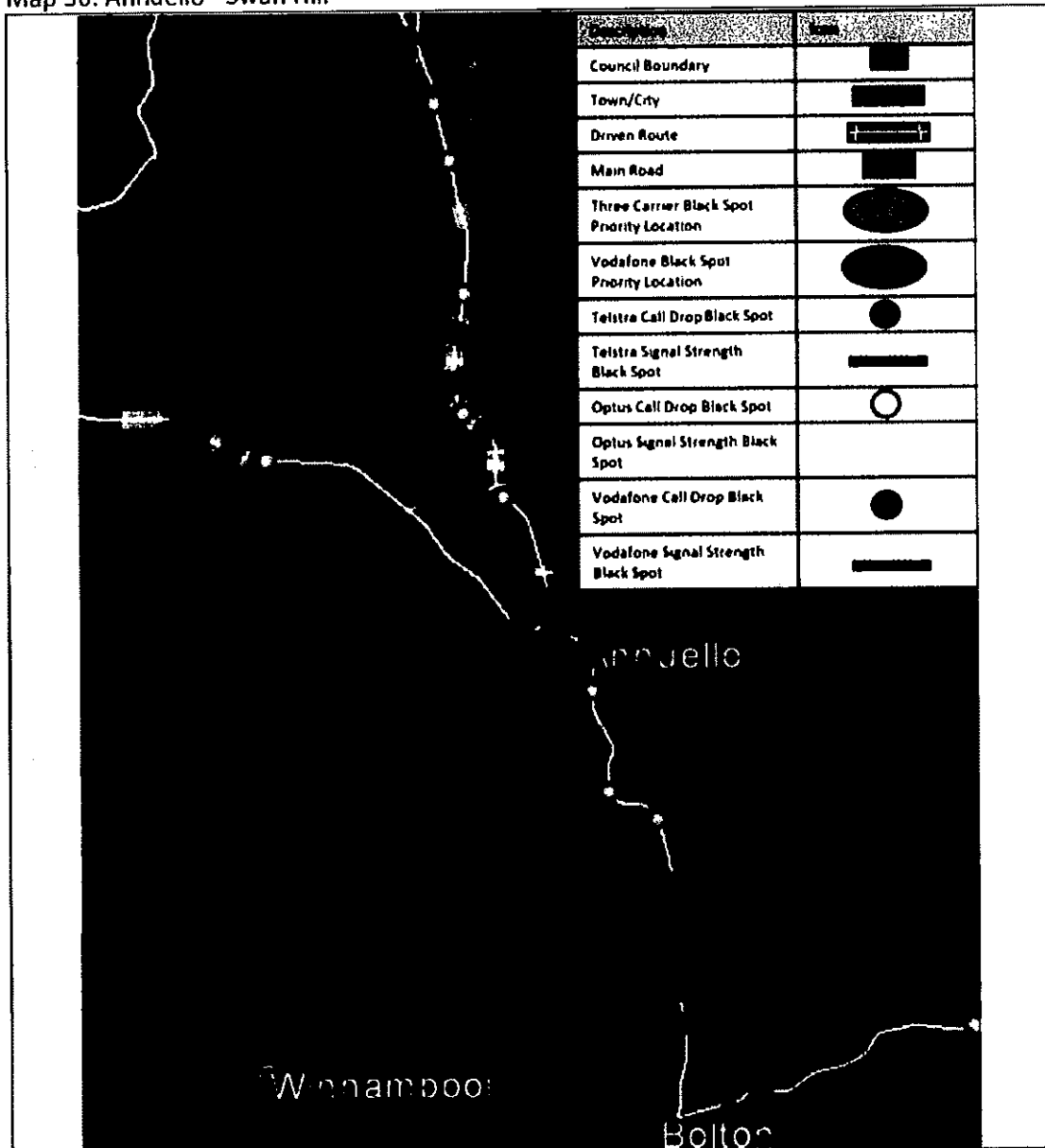
**Candidate Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Maldon**

Large areas surrounding Maldon particularly to the north and west are extensive tracts of Vodafone black spots. Investment by the carrier is needed in this region for better quality coverage and increased competition by all three carriers. One or two towers located to the north and west of Maldon would greatly benefit Vodafone's coverage in Mount Alexander and dependent on geographical features, cover a large majority of the shaded area in the above figure.

### Rural City of Swan Hill

Testing in Swan Hill covered less klm's of roads than any other council area, though not by much. Due to this the results for Swan Hill do show a smaller number of black spots than some other Councils of a similar geographic size. However, when solely looking at the information on a map of Swan Hill, it is evident that there are large black spot areas from either of the carriers throughout the council area.

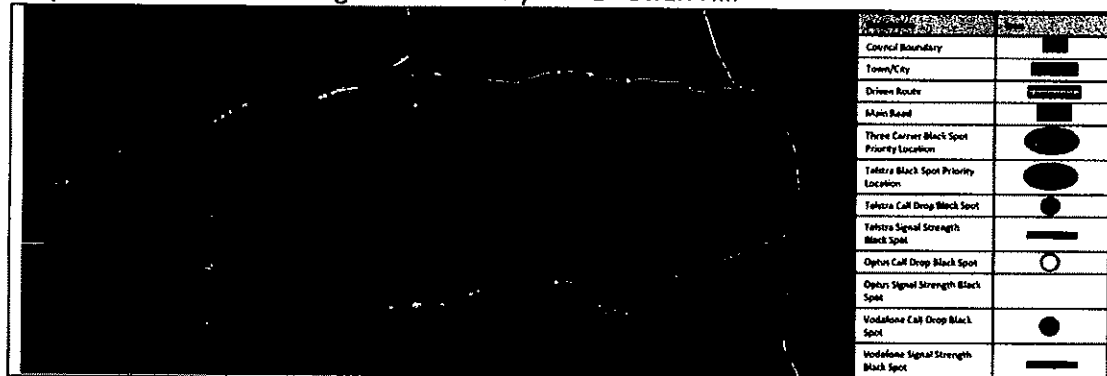
Map 36: Annuello - Swan Hill



#### **Candidate MBSP Location: Annuello**

Most parts of the roads connecting Robinvale to the southern parts of the Swan Hill region are consistently affected by black spots by either carrier. In particular, Robinvale-Sea Lake Road from Bannerton and Bolton, through Annuello is an extensive black spot from all three carriers. Three towers, Bannerton South, Annuello, and Bolton as likely locations would have enormous effect on this relatively flat area. This area is eligible for funding from Round 3 of the MBSP.

**Map 37: Bolton-Kooloonong Road and Natya area - Swan Hill**



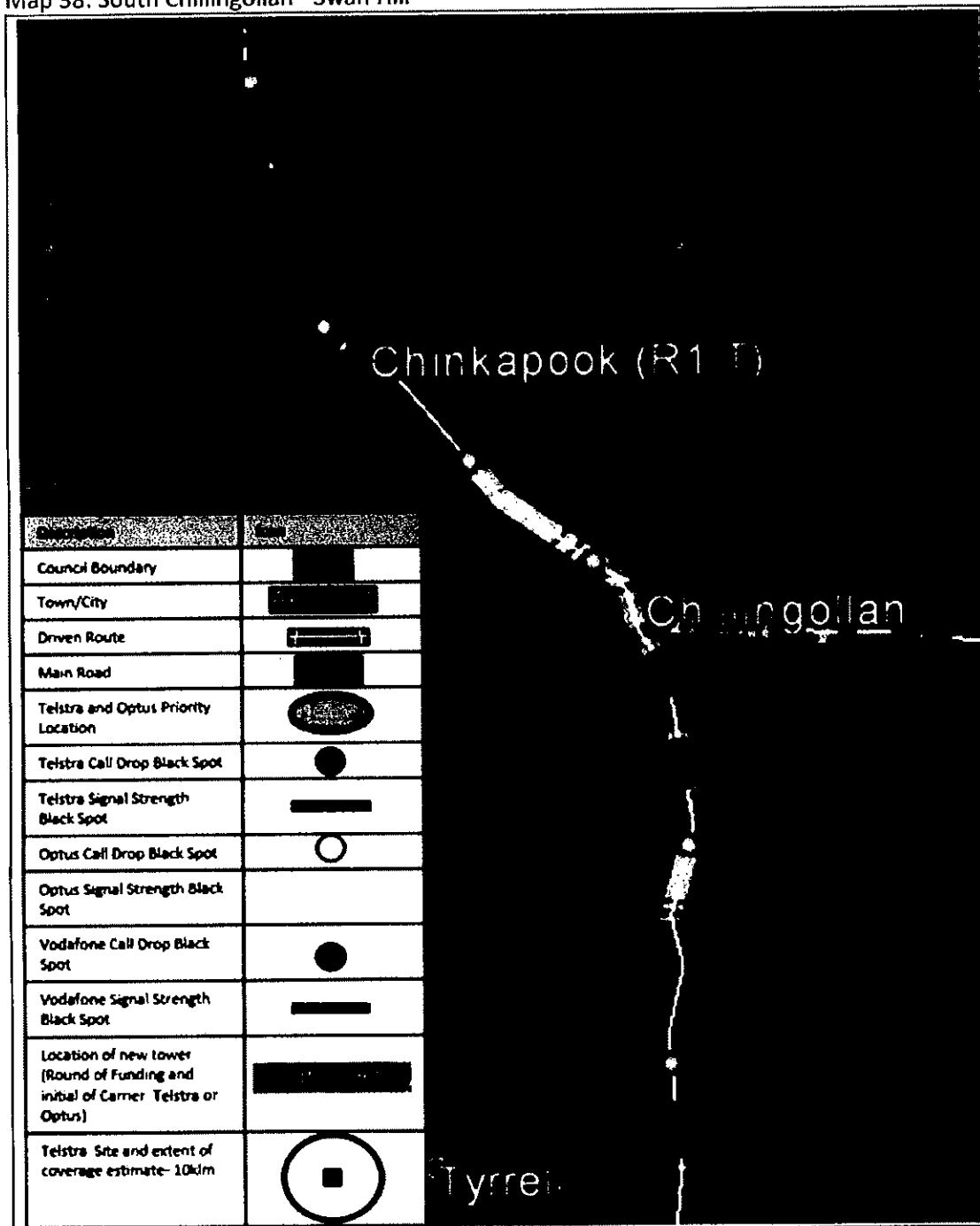
**Candidate MBSP Location: Bolton-Kooloonong Road and Natya area**

Bolton-Kooloonong Road is a black spot intermittently for all three carriers and is eligible for funding by the MBSP, and due to the large size of the priority location, more than one tower is likely to be needed.

**Candidate Telstra Upgrade or New Site Location: Kooloonong-Natya area**

The shaded blue area in the figure above is a large Telstra black spot area which requires an upgrade or new tower to be invested by Telstra to improve coverage in this area.

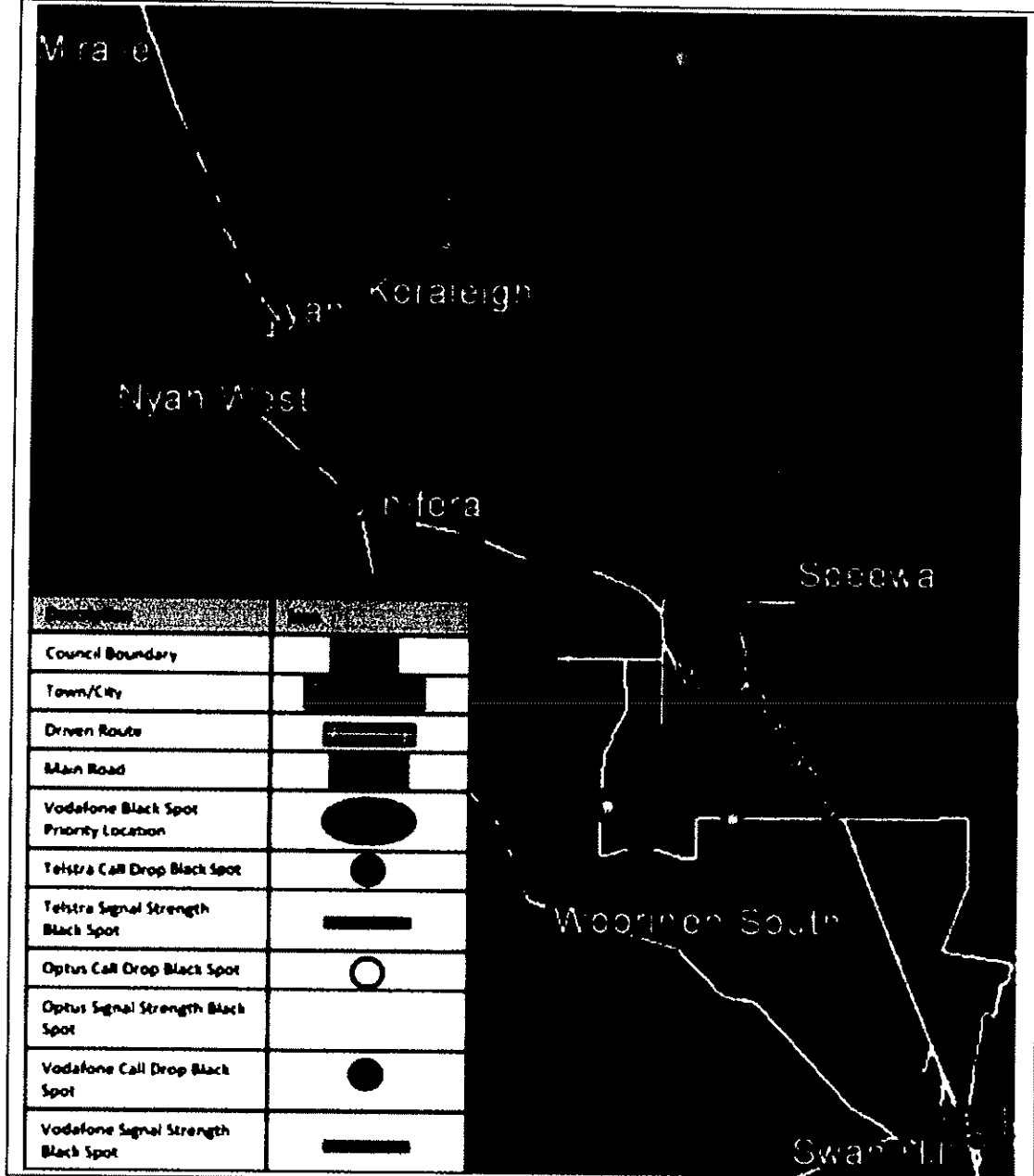
Map 38: South Chillingollah - Swan Hill



#### Candidate Telstra and Optus New site or Upgrade Location: South Chillingollah

Springfield Road between Chinkapook and Tyrell East has identifiable and intermittent Telstra and Optus coverage, in need of major infrastructure improvements as the two largest Telecom providers in Australia. As shown by the blue circle, the Round One funded Telstra Chinkapook site should provide coverage to the northern part of the identified black spot area. However, more than one tower is needed along this route to provide detailed coverage from either carrier.

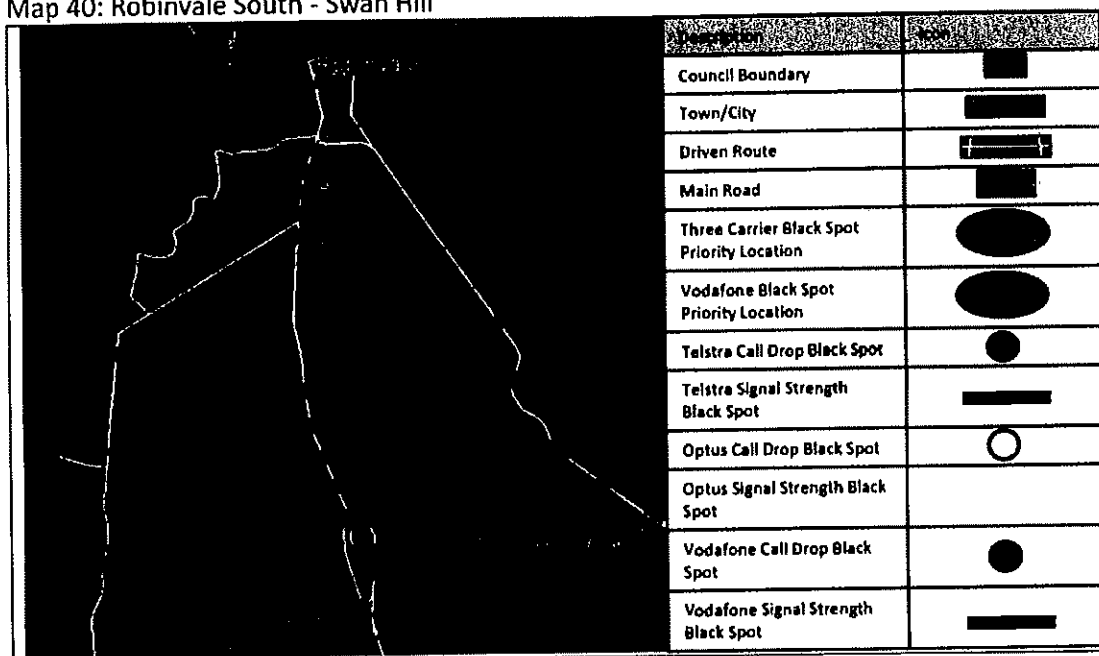
Map 39: Nyah and Beverford - Swan Hill



#### Candidate Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Nyah and Beverford

The large section of the Murray Valley Highway between Miralie and Tyntynder South, and west to Woorinen South, through Nyah and Beverford, is largely void of Vodafone coverage. As a semi urban agricultural region, Vodafone investments are necessary with more than one tower needed for full Vodafone coverage.

Map 40: Robinvale South - Swan Hill



**Candidate Vodafone Upgrade or New Site Location: Robinvale South**

The three main routes south of Robinvale and the agricultural region in between, is a near complete Vodafone coverage black spot which will need major Vodafone infrastructure improvements including the construction of more than one towers to cover the region.

## Conclusion

The findings demonstrate clearly the business case for Mobile Black Spot Program funding in 17 areas and 33 locations where carrier upgrades/new sites need to be undertaken to achieve high quality coverage by all three carriers.

The Loddon Mallee Digital Infrastructure Map provides a public interface for the results to be accessed and inform the advocacy and MBSP funding applications.

Having the mobile broadband black spots independently tested and mapped is the first step towards improving the mobile broadband basis for a strong digital economy. In the same way that local governments know, understand, and seek funding for priority infrastructure in their area, carrier network infrastructure is also critical.

The difference with mobile digital infrastructure to traditional council infrastructure is that it is privately owned. The primary tactic for facilitating increased investment is knowledge of the network, its performance and choosing priority locations (in partnership with the carriers.)

Carriers look to councils for two key types of support:

- The first and most important is facilitation through the approvals process. Councils need to see the investment in new mobile sites (upwards of \$800,000 per site) in the same way that a development application delivering new employment or business growth gets support. The recent studies by Ericson and <sup>6</sup>Chalmers University demonstrating that doubling broadband speeds increased the GDP by 0.3% needs to be considered
- The second is the support where leases are required for use of council owned or controlled land. Often legal firms acting for councils or councils own representatives do not seek to facilitate the timely completion of a standard legal agreement. Each protracted completion or delay creates a reputation profile for the local government.

## Next steps

The Loddon Mallee region is now able to mobilise the next phase of the project by:

1. prioritising the areas of greatest priority
2. undertake additional detailed assessment for the top priority locations. Where DEG has undertaken this next level of evaluation to resolve potential solution locations for the Mobile Black Spot Program, local governments have consistently achieved higher levels of success.
3. Active advocacy – using the report, detailed evaluations, letters of support to underpin
  - a. Mobile Black Spot Program sites from Round 3
  - b. advocacy with each for the carriers for both MBPS and carrier network upgrades/new sites
4. Work with industry and business groups to pursue improvements in coverage for mobile connectivity, internet coverage and Internet of Things (Machine to Machine) connectivity



**Senator the Hon Fiona Nash**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government and Territories  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

MC17-118692

14 JUL 2017

Mr Mark Johnston  
Chief Executive Officer  
Central Goldfields Shire Council  
PO Box 194  
MARYBOROUGH VIC 3465

  
Dear Mr Johnston

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2017 and the enclosed Mobile Coverage Report regarding the mobile black spots in the Central Goldfields Shire, Victoria area. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I acknowledge the work of the Loddon Mallee Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee in providing a comprehensive overview of Mobile Coverage in the region, including the Central Goldfields Shire. This is a useful and informative assessment and the RDA should consider providing a copy of the report to the mobile carriers, if they have not already done so, for consideration of future regional mobile investments.

As you are aware, the Australian Government has committed \$220 million through the Mobile Black Spot Program to invest in telecommunications infrastructure to address mobile black spots along major regional transport routes and in small communities.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the program are delivering almost \$600 million in new investment towards improving mobile coverage in regional and remote Australia. In total, 765 new or upgraded mobile base stations will be deployed across regional and remote Australia. This is the most significant one-time increase in mobile network coverage to regional and remote Australia delivered by a single public funding program in the history mobile communications in Australia.

The Government's commitment includes \$60 million to target specific priority locations. I note your interest in being included in this round. Unfortunately, Central Goldfields Shire area is not one of the priority locations pre announced as part of this commitment and cannot be considered for funding under this round.

At this point, there are no further rounds under which funding can be sought. However, the Government is working closely with the mobile providers to continue regional investment. I would encourage you to contact the mobile carriers to make your coverage issues known and to discuss ways of improving mobile phone reception in your nominated areas. I have enclosed the contact details of the carriers for reference.

You may be interested to know that the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), the peak body representing communications consumers in Australia, has developed a Community Consultation Guide, designed to help communities address issues with mobile coverage in their areas.

The Guide sets out steps to help communities understand what mobile network operators look for when deciding where to invest, and how to put together an effective business case for investment or co-investment. It also contains information on who communities can contact and potentially partner with to achieve results. I have enclosed the guide for reference.

#### **Emergency service communications**

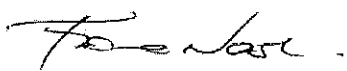
I note your concern that residents won't have access to mobile communications in the event there is a bushfire in the region. As part of effective emergency preparation and planning, it is strongly recommended that people do not rely on a single form of communication or source of information during an emergency. Even in areas where mobile coverage is available, despite best planning and preparation, any communication system can be temporarily affected by adverse conditions.

During an emergency situation, people should use a range of information sources to stay aware of local conditions. These information sources include local radio, television and state and territory emergency service websites. For example, during emergency situations people can listen to ABC Local Radio to receive up-to-date warnings. A portable transistor radio with a spare set of batteries can provide a valuable backup in the event there is a loss of mains power.

The Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that people should not rely on an official warning to leave in an emergency. The CFA 'Fire Ready Kit' contains advice about where to find information and check for warnings during fire season. The kit can be downloaded from CFA's website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



FIONA NASH

Encl.

**Carrier contact details**

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	Email address:	southeastvictcw@team.telstra.com
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<b>Optus</b>	Customer Service:	133 937
	Website:	<a href="http://www.optus.net.au">www.optus.net.au</a>
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Australian Communications Consumer Action Network

# Community Consultation Guide

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

*Tips to improve mobile connectivity in your community*



ENCOURAGE  
CO-INVESTMENT

DETERMINE  
ROAD BLOCKS

DEVELOP  
INITIATIVES

UTILISE TOOLS/  
STRATEGIES

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# Improving Your Mobile Connectivity

## Introduction: why your community might want to partner with industry and where this guide comes in

Telecommunications services across Australia are provided through a mixture of fixed, wireless and satellite based networks operated by various licensed carriers, notably Telstra, Optus and Vodafone. While agreements exist to ensure Australians have access to fixed line telephones, this agreement does not extend to mobile phones.

Mobile phones are particularly important in rural and remote areas. Distance between towns and properties makes it neither safe nor practical to rely on a fixed line phone, so evidence shows mobile phones are becoming the preferred technology. Mobile coverage services are constantly being upgraded, refurbished or expanded into new locations, but the standard and capability depends on several defining factors, including:

- The scale, demand and nature of the local market.
- The complexity and challenges created by the local landscape and environment.
- The remoteness of the market and its distance from main roads or public transport.
- The level of corporate and government operations within or near the location.

These factors must be taken into account in any business case for future investment in upgrading telecommunications infrastructure, and for sustainable mobile service delivery. However, it is often a challenge for communities to persuade industry and government of the benefits of improving and increasing remote and regional services.

This guide sets out steps to help local communities develop the case for improving mobile network coverage by helping to identify opportunities for industry investment through partnerships with mobile network operators or corporate special interests (e.g. mining companies). While establishing contacts and a community business case is necessary, it is not guaranteed to secure investment. Having a strong idea of need and benefits may tip the balance in your favour and help secure valuable industry and government contacts useful to the future of infrastructure in your community.

## What is co-investment? What does it mean here?

Co-investment is an agreement between parties, in this case community groups and industry and often government, to contribute to the 'cost' of an investment. This 'cost' is not limited to dollar amounts – it could be in-kind contributions such as access to land, or agreements on road and resource use.

## Principles for co-investment

The principles of any co-investment exercise are:

1. Evidence of a need: many requests for investment start with anecdotal concerns which need proper exploration. Evidence of the scope of the problem, and an assessment of demand should be mapped out to build a case for future co-investment.
2. Government intervention: while there may be several government infrastructure programs available, reliance on government intervention as the only source of investment in mobile network development may not always result in the best outcomes for communities as there may not be enough funding available or priorities may be directed towards specific cases. Local communities should explore alternative ways of improving investment in local digital infrastructure.
3. Cost benefit: each option for co-investment should be supported by a sustainable business case showing that benefits outweigh costs. There should also be clear evidence of community support and consultation.

## What could your community do?

Use this guide to develop a community co-investment plan. A community co-investment plan is a road map to increasing the viability of investment in communities. It has three major functions:

- 1) It provides communities with a guide to developing a needs assessment.
- 2) It is a useful tool to help communities develop a business case for investment.
- 3) It can be used to establish contacts with industry and government.

You can begin using this guide at any of the steps. The order given is a suggested flow for those who are at the earliest stages of the partnership seeking process.

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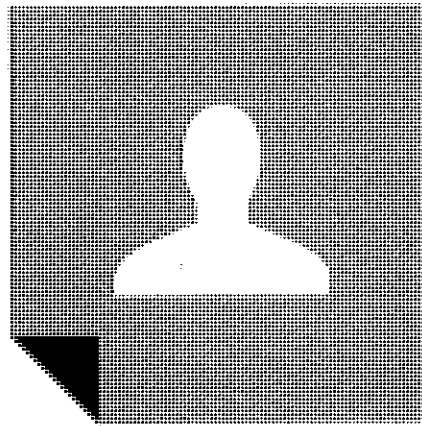
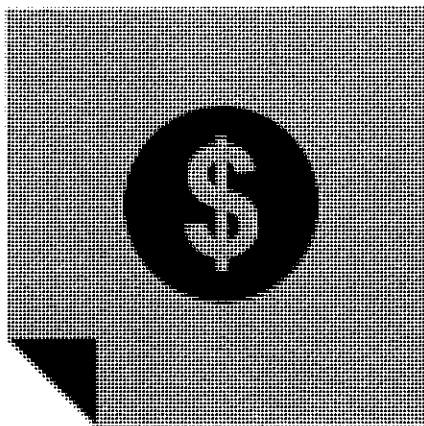
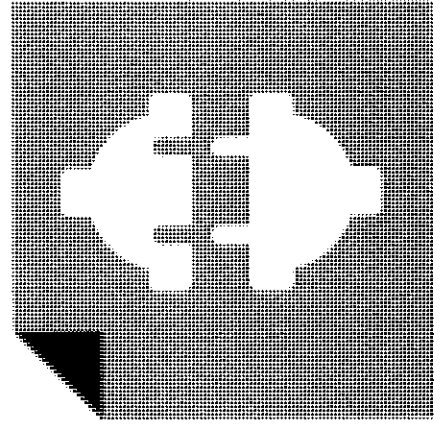
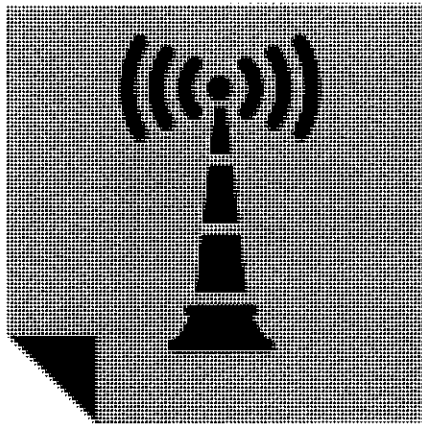
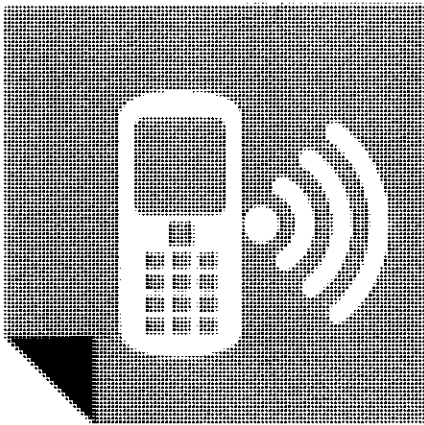
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# Phase One: Is There a Problem?





Establishes  
identity if the  
need exists and  
ensures  
involvement

## Stage One: Getting Started

A community should undertake a needs assessment to determine and address "gaps" between where it is at, and where it wants to get to. This first stage contains a needs assessment check list for use as a first step for communities wishing to identify and define local mobile service coverage issues.

Establishing if there is a large scale problem is step one in any needs assessment. To build a business case, mobile reception problems must be identified for a reasonable percentage of the community. There is no set scale as to what level of need will tip the balance in favour of future mobile network investment, but following this process allows a community to judge if further action should be taken.

### **Rally interested parties:**

You will need to build up a network of people in your area who are having similar mobile coverage problems. Use all your contacts to do this, and get them to call other locals they know who are sharing the same frustrations to enlist their support. One option to consider is a call out on social media. It's important to try and gain widespread community support early on to avoid any setbacks or conflicts later on.

# Stage Two: Getting Established

Once you have formed a group of interested people, you need hard information to get a clear idea of how far the problem goes. You will need more information and involvement from the wider community to get the ball rolling. Get the group together and agree on a time and place for a consultation meeting about mobile reception, open to all locals. Consider lining the first meeting up with a local event to help attract attention, and advertise the meeting through the local council, paper or community hub. The meeting doesn't need to be official. Hold it at home, in a community.

Consider involving the following key people/organisations:

## **Local emergency services:**

Your local emergency services will benefit from improved mobile coverage in critical situations.

## **Local government officials:**

Your local council will likely have communications or local business managers. Contact them and see if they could become involved or offer you information on getting started. It's important to get your Federal MP behind you as this will make success more likely.

## **Regional Development Australia:**

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of 55 committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development of their regions ([rda.gov.au](http://rda.gov.au))

As the regional development voice of their communities, RDA committees:

- consult and engage with communities
- promote and participate in regional programs and initiatives
- provide information and advice on their region to all levels of government, and support informed regional planning

## **Prominent local business and community groups or leaders:**

The Country Women's Association, local farmers/growers/small business interest groups, schools and Parents and Citizens associations are all groups that routinely involve themselves in community advocacy and action. Would they be interested in helping? Do they have a member or volunteer who works on communications issues? Do they have a space available for meetings?

## **Local experts:**

Establish who local experts are. These might be former or current technicians, radio engineers, tech experts or just tech savvy community members. Are they interested in the issue and would they like to help? Use your connections! Does a friend's son work for Telstra? Does your neighbour know a lot about mobile phone technology?

## Stage Three: Set up a Working Group or Committee

After your first meeting you might find the whole community is interested in taking part, or you may have a group of interested people. Either way, to progress you will need a core working group to organise materials and undertake actions on behalf of the community. At the start, a few logistical matters need to be taken care of by the working group to run effective public consultation meetings. During these public consultation meetings you can get a better understanding of how big the problem is and who could help.

Regular meetings will be needed to keep this work on track and focused.

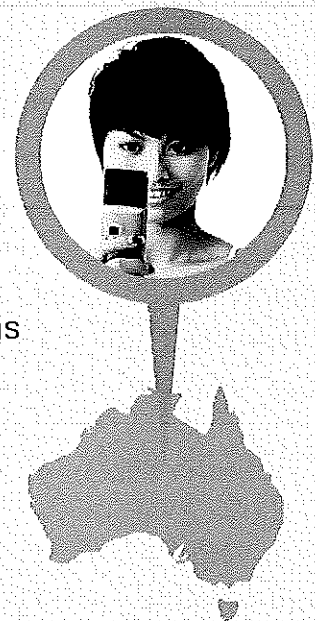
You may discover after one or two meetings that service issues appear to only be affecting a handful of local consumers. This does not reduce the importance of their concerns, but their specific issues may be dealt with in a more appropriate manner.

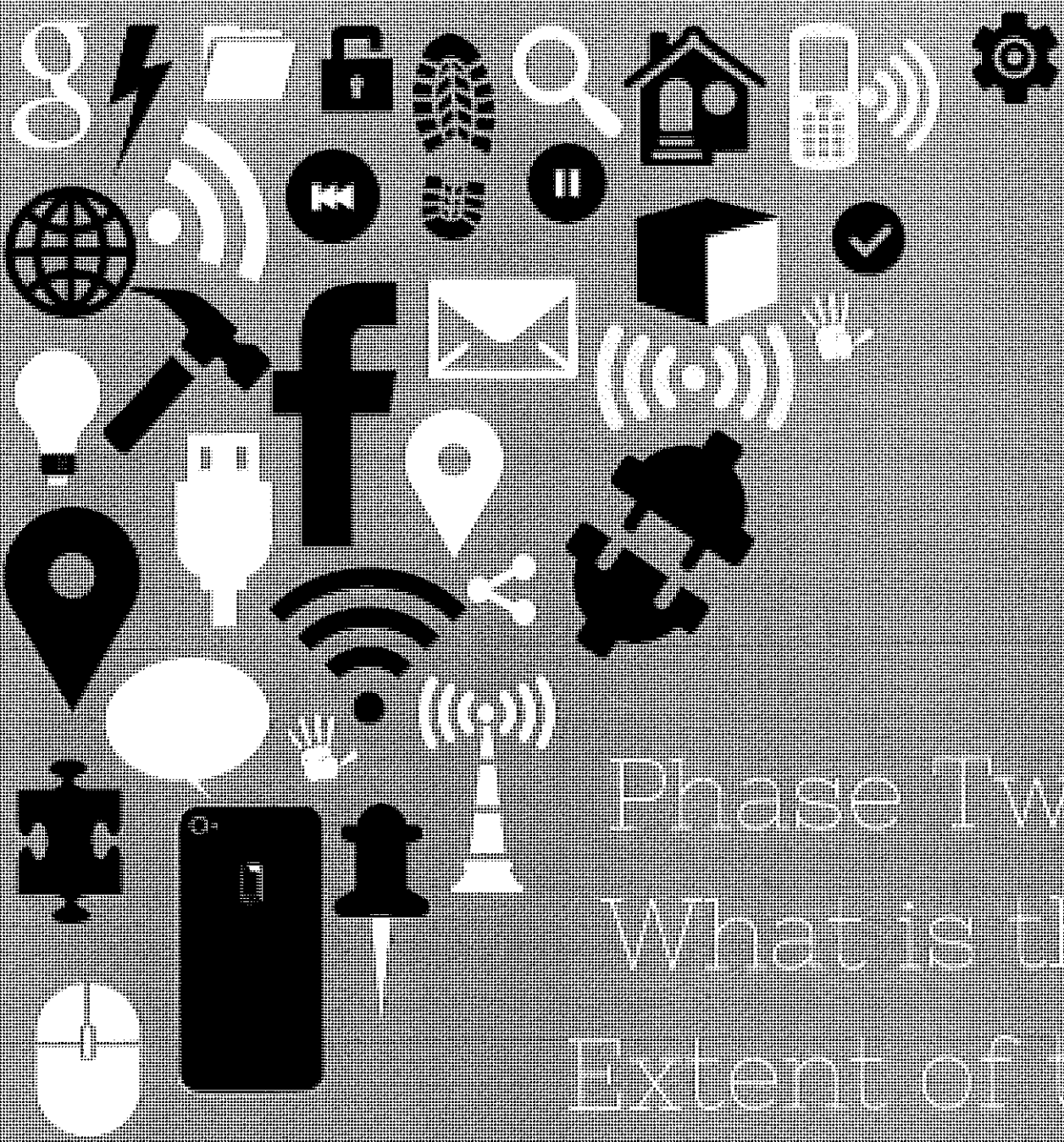
For example, solutions may be available on a more individual level. The ACCAN tip sheet 'Poor mobile reception: what can you do?' ([accan.org.au/tipsheets](http://accan.org.au/tipsheets)) is a useful guide. It contains information on contacting your provider for help and making a complaint about poor coverage. Information on approved mobile repeaters, which may be enough to fix a small scale mobile coverage problem, can be found on the Australian Communications and Media Authority's website ([acma.gov.au](http://acma.gov.au)).

You'll need to consider:

- 1) Planning for the meeting (who writes the agenda and goals?).
- 2) Setting up the meeting (logistics - where and when).
- 3) Running the meeting (who will be chairing/facilitating/taking minutes and recording action to follow up?).
- 4) Following up (after the meeting - who looks after the minutes and follows up on the action items?).

It's important to have these details hammered out before pursuing the next phase, which will include a bigger push for data on the extent of coverage issues.





Phase Two:  
What is the  
Extent of the  
Problem?  
Developing a  
“Community  
Audit”

A Community Audit identifies and collects information on the current connectivity, use and benefit of improved local mobile services. It helps examine and measure the extent of the problem, and identifies the benefits of resolution for a community. It's important to undertake this audit early so your community has all the relevant information when approaching potential investors.

## Stage One: Coverage Audit

Once you know the problem exists and the need to co-invest has been recognised, you can begin building a complete profile of the problem. You must be able to clearly identify local coverage deficiencies. Often the first sign of deficiency is regular complaints of poor or patchy services, so you would already be aware of anecdotal evidence of the issue. Another sign is existing services provided through a technology that is reaching its capacity and performing badly.

This is often the case for the following:

1. Mobile network wireless coverage in hilly areas, or where properties are located in and around dense foliage.
2. Communities where recent expansion extends away from existing mobile tower sites.
3. New subdivisions that develop outside town limits, particularly in undulating landscapes or near forests.

Assessing the deficiency in mobile networks can be particularly difficult. The following helpful steps are recommended before deciding to pursue further improvements to mobile coverage:

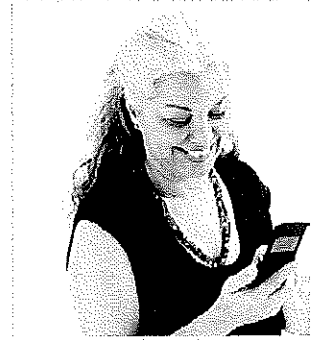
1. Consult existing mobile network operators (generally Telstra, Optus or Vodafone) to ascertain what they believe to be the standards of coverage in the area.
2. Review published coverage maps and compare these to "on the ground" circumstances to identify prospective barriers to coverage. Don't restrict yourself to coverage maps supplied by the mobile networks.

3. Look for areas prone to issues where there has been recent growth in population or phone users. Increased usage without upgraded transmission capacity can cause service deficiencies.

4. Survey the population (home owners and businesses) to gauge trouble spots.

### **Suggested questions for a consumer coverage survey**

- Who is your provider?
- What brand of phone do you have?
- What model is it?
- Is it a 4G, 3G or 2G phone?
- The location you are providing feedback on (for example your home, farm, office, or a road or highway).
- How many signal bars do you get inside?
- How many signal bars do you get outside?
- Do your calls drop out at this location?
- Do you use an external antenna?
- Is this an ongoing problem? How long has it been as issue?
- Have you tried other providers?
- Is your issue with:  
Coverage – bars on phone? OR  
Performance – speed or consistency of speed when using a device to access Internet.
- Have you contacted your provider?
- An additional comments section should be included to capture any extra information.



Your community can also get a carrier-independent assessment of network performance in your area. For example, Digital Economy Group ([digitaleconomygroup.com.au](http://digitaleconomygroup.com.au)) - provides cost effective independent network performance testing for all three carriers at the same time. Detailed reports based on the testing are then used as the business case for new sites, upgrades and increasing local demand.



# Stage Two: Usage and Benefits Audit

A usage and benefits audit maps out community participation in existing mobile technology, and measures the extent it might be limited by the poor or limited mobile coverage footprint identified by the coverage audit. There are various areas where you might gather data to help your community demonstrate a need. Many are listed below, but this is not an exhaustive list. Consider how mobile services are used, or could be used, in your community and what might improve with better services.

## Uptake

- Number of devices in the community
- Where there is public WiFi access
- Use of social media

## Social Benefits

- Health
- Education
- Local Government
- Culture and arts
- Population

## Economic Benefits

- Business use
- New developments
- Retail investment
- Tourism & hospitality
- Primary production
- Resource investment

## Suggested Questions

You might choose to identify a number of points from case studies or testimonies from local experts to use in community surveys. This is a list of suggested questions that can provide insight into how coverage issues have affected your community's lifestyle:

- What are services like in the region?
- How have mobile coverage issues affected local business?
- How have coverage issues affected education?
- Are there sufficient Government and health services locally or are they a long way off?
- Would better mobile coverage attract people to your area?
- Have service professionals or visitors left or shortened their stay due to poor coverage?
- Are there existing services that would benefit from increased coverage? If so how?
- Is there new investment lined up for the area? If so what and when?
- Does the community host any major events?
- What does population growth look like for the region?
- Are there any business opportunities that could exist in your locality with better coverage that don't exist now?

## Stage Three: Community Awareness Campaign

As part of the final stage of Phase Two you may wish to undertake a community awareness campaign to seek further information, or update your community on the project's progress. Some form of continued public education or consultation would be useful to communicate the benefits of the project and to get the ongoing support of your local community for investment and participation in associated activities to ensure the best chance of success. Make sure your community is aware of the infrastructure and space required to build a new mobile tower, and what a new tower will look like. This will limit potential conflicts if your site is chosen.

### What can we offer?

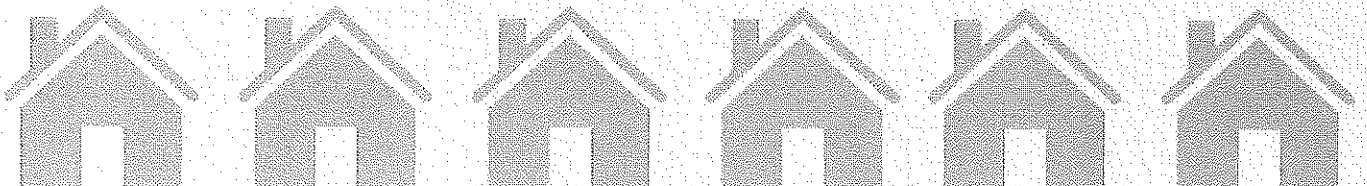
#### Developing a Value Proposition

A value proposition highlights and explains how improved mobile coverage will deliver specific quantifiable value to your community. A value proposition for expanding mobile coverage in your area will be based on the Community Audit and usage and benefits audit. The value proposition can be used as part of a business case to attract the investment of mobile network operators, and is the companion to your needs assessment.

#### Understanding Industry Needs

It is important to identify and understand the interests of mobile network operators in order to gauge what will attract them to invest in your community and how their needs could line up with yours. This might be a good stage to organise or invite a guest speaker to meetings with experience in working with the industry, such as a local technician, Council person or a representative from a mobile network operator. Examples of potential triggers for mobile network operator investment that are useful to bear in mind are:

- Communities with significant populations and/or expected high population growth.
- Communities adjacent to a major industrial or resources based project.
- Communities with a concentration of public facilities (schools, hospitals, libraries, police stations, fire stations) not currently serviced by high capacity networks.
- A community aligned with a significant Federal/State Government development policy such as the Regional Centres Development Plan, known as the "Super Towns" project in Western Australia.
- Communities close to proposed new infrastructure corridors, highways and transport routes.
- A community served by an existing digital community hub or resource centre.



## Identifying Co-investment Sources in Your Community

Once your community and working group understands more about how industry investment priorities line up with community needs and features, you can begin to identify co-investment options for negotiation. Co-investment goes two ways and any benefits you can offer investors to help lower costs and streamline processes can help increase your chances of improving services. Co-investment in support of mobile infrastructure development takes various forms:

### In-Kind Support:

Some communities may have funds, through local government, business associations or fund raising that they might wish to contribute toward the cost of building a base station in an area where the business case does not stack up, owing to the cost of construction or the ongoing costs. Other in-kind support can be offered such as access to land.

### Cost Mitigation:

Direct cash contributions to the developer to pay for extra infrastructure, including financial contributions from Local Government, private businesses and not-for-profit bodies. Other assistance could involve the removal or amendment of physical or regulatory barriers to the deployment of digital infrastructure. Refer to Case Study One [on page 16].

### What can you do to smooth the process and make success more likely?

- Local communities can help identify appropriate sites for mobile base stations that meet community needs in advance of them being required. Local Councils can ensure that the planning process is as easy as possible and sites are identified that meet requirements.
- Your community can also organise an assessment of appropriate sites for mobile towers with a consultant radio engineer or through Telstra.
- Ensure your community supports the chosen locations for a new mobile base station to avoid conflict further down the track.
- Gaining resource consents and sign-offs from local government can speed-up the process by as much as six months if your site is chosen for a new mobile base station.
- Granting access to services or facilities through shared resources or infrastructure co-location. For example allowing a developer to co-locate new digital infrastructure with existing infrastructure. Access to power is an important service. Base stations need access to power sources, and local communities and councils will have information about sites which have easy and ready access to power. Local communities can also lobby for reduced power concessions for base stations in regional areas where there is a social need to expand mobile coverage.
- Agreeing to the co-location of assets with other construction projects by State Governments, utilities, private companies and Local Councils such as underground power, street scape work, new bridges, roads, rail corridors, pipe lines and land developments. For an example, refer to Case Study Two [on page 16].

## Case Study One:

### **Jemalong Irrigation Company and Lachlan Shire community**

Jemalong Irrigation Limited employed two consultants to assist their advocacy efforts for two new mobile base station sites in the area near Forbes NSW. The consultants scoped out the best potential sites for the new base stations, and Jemalong worked with the Forbes and Lachlan Shire Councils to secure financial and in-kind support. Vodafone is building stations at the two selected sites under Round One of the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

#### **Things to think about:**

Even if you are unable to work with professional consultants like Jemalong, you can still work with your local council to identify the best spots for a new base station. Consider things like whether adequate and reliable power supply and backhaul are available to the site, and make sure you have community support for the locations you choose.

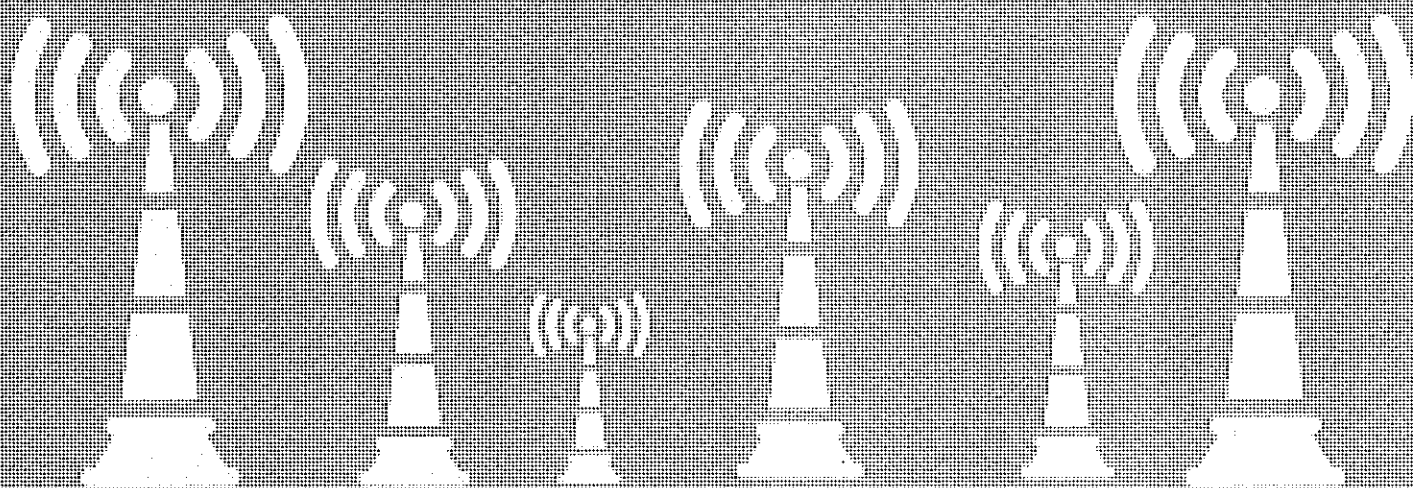
## Case Study Two:

### **Co-location in Glen Innes**

Under Round One of the Mobile Black Spot Programme, Vodafone committed to building a mobile base station near Glen Innes, NSW, with the support of the Inverell and Glen Innes Severn Shire Councils. An international wind power company offered to host the mobile antennas on one of its 90 metre tall wind turbines, meaning coverage was greatly improved and the base station now covers nine former mobile black spots.

# Phase Three: Getting it Together and Getting in Touch

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Once the research stages are finished, your data needs to be analysed and edited. Not all information will be relevant, so it is important to review what has been gathered. From this information, your working group must decide on the community's most relevant needs, benefits and value points. It is also important to ensure your community agrees with what is decided, and that the research outcomes accurately reflect its needs.

## Stage One: Community Business Case

### What does the big picture look like?

A community business case is a summary outlining all the information your needs assessment and value proposition have collected. It is a simplified profile of the eventual document that can be presented to potential investors. In addition to defining the purpose and ownership of the co-investment project so far, it helps sell the project to the wider community and encourages further commitment and involvement.

#### **What is the purpose of the community business case?**

- To confirm priorities and objectives:

You must have a clear idea of the priority needs expressed by your community and how they are reinforced by your data. What areas are most in need of coverage improvement? Who will benefit most from increased coverage and how? Are there priority services or issues that would be enhanced with improved coverage?

Now that your working group has evidence of the issue and specific community needs, it can define a clear set of desired outcomes based on those needs. Having a clear set of objectives when approaching mobile network operators will help them understand how you can work together. It is also good to have some idea of how flexible those objectives are (i.e. what is or is not negotiable).

- To define your community value:

The community business case needs to determine the investment gap. This is where your value proposition will be most relevant. It is important to determine where your value is strongest. What can you offer and how do those features overlap to line up with industry concerns? How does your community plan help offset the costs of industry investment?

- To confirm and inform stakeholders:

The participation of community members and relevant stakeholders in the preparation and assessment of the completed business case is an important stage in the ownership process for the project. It also increases the confidence of the participants in their ability to identify and develop real solutions to their mobile coverage problems (or responses to opportunities). At this stage you should confirm and finalise any agreements with parties who might be facilitating or providing any of the services, funding or access outlined in your value proposition.

- To confirm the timetable:

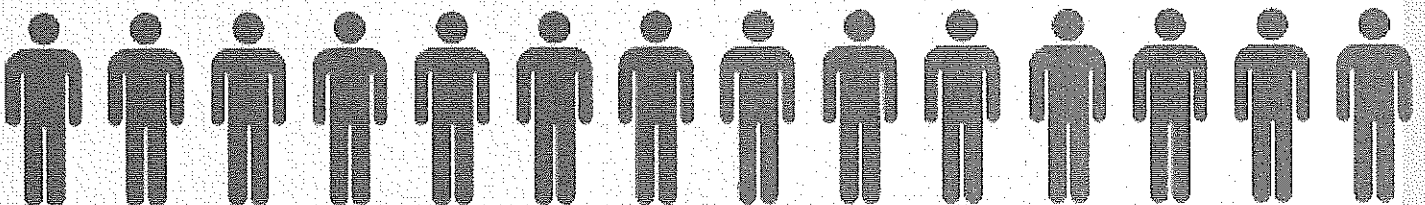
Can you establish a time line for the tasks you have left? How long do you want to take attracting investors, compiling your data and when do you hope to achieve some of your outcomes?

## Stage Two: The Contacts



Now that you have all your information together you will need to look into making some industry contacts. This process is very fluid and hopefully by now you have been able to get the help of local council members, RDA committees or expert parties to get your proposal started.

Here we will provide some information on the three major mobile network providers and the best ways to get in touch with them. It's important to note that this will be most effective as the last step in your process. You want to maximise your chances by putting forward as detailed description of your needs as possible. Similarly these contacts should not be used in the case of an individual's service or billing issues. Details of customer care lines for these problems can be found on each provider's websites.

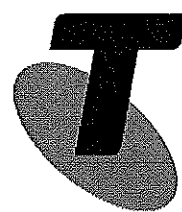


# Telstra

Telstra's Area General Managers (AGMs) are senior members of Telstra's regional management team and are the company's key contact in their regional area. They are accountable for customer experience, business and network performance, and community engagement, and are Telstra's contact point for network infrastructure and mobile phone coverage queries. Area General Managers report to Telstra Regional Directors, who are key members of Telstra Country Wide's senior leadership team.

Contact details for Telstra's AGMs can be found here:

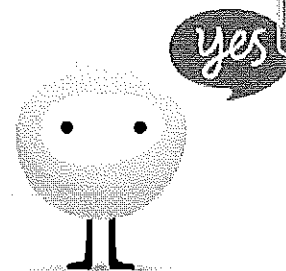
<http://www.telstra.com.au/telstracountrywide/contact-us/index.htm>



# Optus

Optus has indicated that they are happy to accept and discuss submissions by communities for increasing mobile coverage in their local area in two ways:

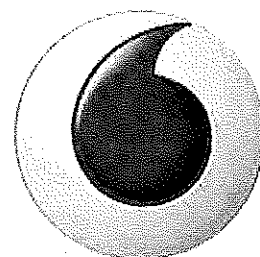
- 1) If you're interested in the Australian Government Mobile Blacks Spots Programme and/or partnering with Optus as a community, please email: **[mobileblackspotprogramme@optus.com.au](mailto:mobileblackspotprogramme@optus.com.au)** with details of your submissions or proposals.
- 2) For all other matters, please call the customer switch board on 02 8082 7800 and ask to be put through to our community relations team.



# Vodafone

Vodafone has indicated community groups may contact the Head of Public Policy directly with their proposals via the following:

Tim McPhail  
**[tim.mcphail@vodafone.com.au](mailto:tim.mcphail@vodafone.com.au)**  
 0487 323 333



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# Acknowledgements

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ACCAN wishes to thank Mr Jim Wyatt of Optimi Digital for allowing ACCAN to adapt information from his organisation's co-investment tool kit and consultation service guidelines. You can read more about Optimi Digital's consultation services by following the link <http://www.optimidigital.com.au/>

We would also like to acknowledge the involvement and information provided by Michael Whareat, President of the Australian Smart Communities Association and representatives of Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.

# Community Consultation Guide

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

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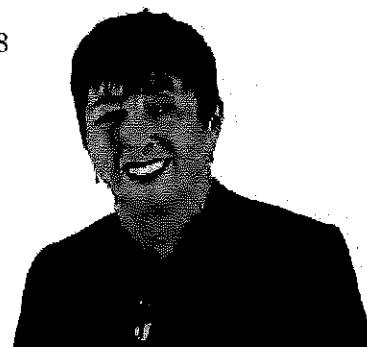
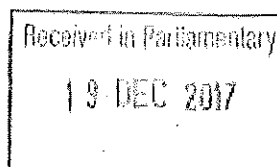
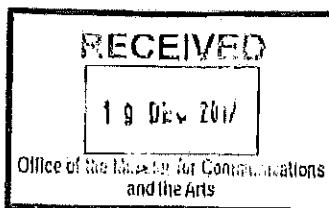
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13 December 2017



Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield  
Minister for Communications  
Minister for the Arts  
Manager of Government Business in the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



**Councillor Cherie Dalley**  
REPRESENTING DIVISION 8  
Deputy Mayor  
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Dear Senator Fifield

**RE: MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROGRAM - PRIORITY LOCATIONS ROUND**

Thank you for your letter to Mayor Luke Smith dated 15 November 2017 advising that the Australian Government program mentioned above has identified the Undullah/Flagstone area within Logan City as a priority location for improved mobile coverage.

"Council has no identified funding to contribute to the cost of installing base stations, similar infrastructure or contribute to civil works.

Any specific request for financial assistance would need to be subject to a Council report and formal Council consideration.

All requests for access to existing Council Infrastructure should be directed to the Acting/Corporate Property Program Leader – Philip Previte and/or Acting/Corporate Property Coordinator Lawrence Camilleri. The Officers' contact details have been emailed to your Department at [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au) as requested.

Logan City Council's Development Assessment Branch has a proven history of working collaboratively with the full range of telecommunications providers so that we always meet or exceed the statutory timeframes for the assessment of new facilities. In this regard, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Ball, Acting Manager Development Assessment on 07 3412 4439 if you would like to discuss our approach in more detail."

I thank you for your letter and for your dedication to improving mobile coverage in Logan City.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Cherie Dalley**  
Acting Mayor  
City of Logan

**LOGAN CITY COUNCIL**

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