

# Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Submission Information

This cover sheet should be attached to submissions made to the Department of Communications in relation to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.

#### Contact Details

Name of respondent: [REDACTED]

Name of organisation: Beeac Progress Association Inc.

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website (if applicable):

Date: February 22, 2014

#### Confidentiality and privacy

All submissions and comments, or parts thereof, will be treated as non-confidential information unless specifically requested, and acceptable reasons should accompany each request. Email disclaimers will not be considered sufficient confidentiality requests.

Respondents lodging a submission should be aware that submissions (excluding any information agreed to be treated as confidential information) will be made publicly available, including on the Department of Communications' website. Submissions and comments will be subject to freedom of information provisions. Despite a submission being identified as confidential or sensitive, submissions may be disclosed where authorised or required by law, or for the purpose of parliamentary processes.

Do you want all or parts of the submission to be treated as confidential? No

*If yes, identify below which parts of the submission are to be treated as confidential (and provide a reason):*

If the submission contains personal information of any third party individual, indicate on this Submission Cover Sheet if that third party individual has not consented to the publication of his or her personal information:

#### Submission Instructions

Submissions are to be made by **5:00pm (AEST) Friday 28 February 2014**.

Where possible, submissions should be lodged electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats via the email address [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au)

Alternatively, submissions can be sent to the postal address below (to arrive by the due date):

The Manager  
Mobile Coverage Programme  
Department of Communications  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2615

All submissions lodged will be acknowledged by the Department of Communications by email (or by letter if no email is provided). Respondents lodging a submission who do not receive acknowledgement of their submission should contact the Department. Submissions which are not acknowledged by the Department as being received may not be considered. Respondents should be aware that emails greater than 10Mb may not be successfully delivered.



**BEEAC PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.**

[REDACTED] BEEAC VICTORIA 3251

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

February 22, 2014

**SUBMISSION FROM BEEAC PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**to Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper**

**Municipality – Shire of Colac-Otway**

**Electorate – Corangamite**

Beeac is a rural township situated 20km north of Colac on main Ballarat-Colac road with minimal or non-existent mobile coverage. Rural properties in a wide area adjacent to the township are similarly affected.

Beeac Progress Association Inc. has correspondence dating back over 12 years highlighting our situation and bringing the matter to the attention of Telstra and Government.

**Beeac meets the criteria for the \$80 million Mobile Network Expansion Project and has a compelling case for the following reasons:**

**1. Major Transport Route**

Colac-Ballarat road has many kilometers of black spots. This road is the major source of raw product for two of Colac's major industries

- Pine logs from the Central Highlands for Colac softwood timber mills and timber treatment works
- Lambs for processing at Australian Lamb Company abattoirs

Also - Grain and Hay from northern Victoria for southern dairy farmers

- Tourists from Northern Victoria and New South Wales travelling south to Great Ocean Road

**2. Safety**

Beeac residents are forced to move outside their homes and stand in the street to gain any limited reception. The town has a disproportionately high population of elderly residents and sole occupants, which exacerbate the safety risks, with the high volume of heavy transport traffic.

Inability of residents to call emergency services from inside their home is a safety and security risk.

**3. Fire**

Beeac is situated on the highly flammable Western District grasslands and was impacted by the massive 1977 Western District fires which involved heavy loss of lives and property. The effectiveness of the Beeac and Weering-Eurack Fire Brigades is severely impacted by inadequate and patchy mobile reception.

#### 4. Economic

Lack of mobile coverage impacts on the ability to run town-based Beeac businesses and farming properties in the adjoining area.

Black spots on the Colac-Ballarat Road are detrimental to the transport companies operating on it.

#### Opportunities that should be investigated:

Beeac is situated in closely settled open, relatively flat country 120 metres above sea level and currently receives reception from Mt Gellibrand approximately 15km to the south-east.

1. **Mt Gellibrand** is 186 metres above sea level and we are told reception is focused on the Princes Highway. As Birregurra, south of Mt Gellibrand also complain of poor reception, surely better use could be made of such an elevated site.
2. **Warrion Hill** – 10km to our west is 276m high. Surely a tower situated here could solve our problems and many other reception problems in the Colac-Otway Shire. There are many other dissatisfied mobile users located between Beeac and Warrion Hill.
3. Given the flat open terrain, a small facility located beside the **Beeac telephone exchange** (2km north of town) may be a low cost option.