

# 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: Stephen Dawson

Name of organisation: Birregurra CFA

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Website (if applicable):

Date: 28/02/14

#### 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? Yes  No

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

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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.

## Minister for Communications

Malcolm Turnbull MP

Dear Mr Turnbull,

As secretary and volunteer fire-fighter with the Birregurra Fire Brigade, I am writing to express my community safety concerns with mobile phone coverage within the township.

Mobile phones provide an additional communication tool whilst the Brigade is attending to incidents and undertaking training exercises. Coverage at the moment is unreliable within the town and non-existent in and around the Fire Station area.

From a safety point of view, I (speaking on behalf of the Brigade as a whole) believe that an upgrade in mobile phone coverage is crucial, in order to provide a reliable service on both a day-to-day basis and in the event of an emergency, such as the events of this week.

The CFA issued emergency warnings on its website for areas surrounding and including Birregurra for a large grassfire threatening communities. If SMS text warning messages had been needed, I'm uncertain as to how they would have been effectively delivered to residents and visitors within the Township area.

Smaller communities demand and deserve the same level of commitment to mobile phone coverage that larger communities receive.

As part of the Government's Broadband Scheme, the Township of Birregurra needs much improved mobile phone coverage, and quite frankly, when lives and property are at risk, we need a service we can rely on.

Thank-you for your efforts to date and for the opportunity to express my concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Steve Dawson

Secretary Birregurra Fire Brigade

<b>Name of respondent:</b>	<b>Stephen Dawson</b>
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Birregurra CFA
<b>Phone:</b>	██████████
<b>Email:</b>	████████████████████
<b>Website (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	28/02/14