

# 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

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<b>Date:</b>	03.04.2014

#### 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.

Ref No 10.85.1/33

26 February 2014

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

**Principal Office**

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**Branch Office**

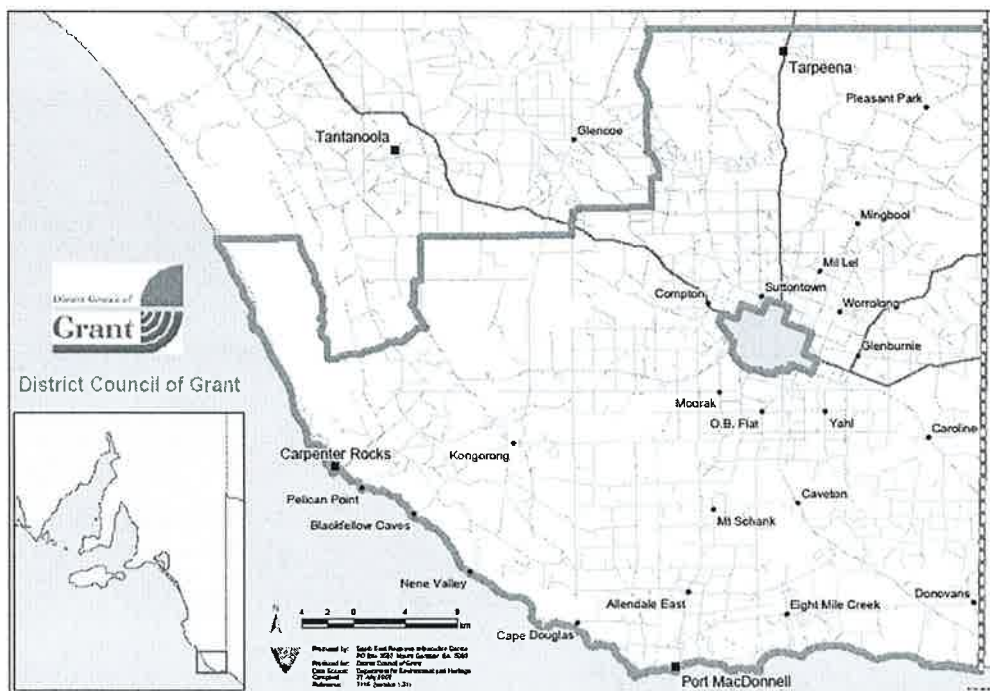
5 Charles Street  
Port MacDonnell SA 5291

By email: [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au)

Dear Manager

**Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper Submission**

The District Council of Grant is the most southern Local Government area in South Australia. The Council is predominantly rural with a number of small townships serving a population of approximately 8,500 covering an area of 188,493 hectares. It is bounded to the south and west by the Southern Ocean, the Victorian Border to the east and the Wattle Range Council to the north. The Council encircles the local government area of the City of Mount Gambier. Dairying, beef and sheep production, wool, seed, and grain production and horticulture are the predominant agricultural activities. The Port MacDonnell fishing industry, in particular the rock lobster industry is a significant factor in the economy of the area, as is forestry production and the related industries of logging and milling.



All communities, industry and residents within the District Council of Grant require access to high quality, reliable mobile phone services. This will enable the community to not only undertake their livelihoods effectively but to have access from their rural locations to the services and information available to those in metropolitan areas. From a commercial perspective, some of these locations are sparsely populated, but can be critical by way of industry and influx of tourists etc.

There are a number of localities identified within the Council area that have no cover, or limited/poor mobile coverage (see attached map). The following broad areas are identified where poor, minimal or no mobile coverage exists:-

1. South-west area of Council (area between Carpenter Rocks, Blackfellows Caves, Kongorong). This area covers areas of forestry, tourists accessing coastal areas, general farming, emergency services
2. North of Port MacDonnell (intermittent coverage through to Mount Gambier) – tourist route, freight route, school bus route, emergency services
3. Glenburnie area – Mount Gambier and District Saleyards area in particular – major regional cattle and sheep marketplace. Transport Hub for transport of livestock (in and out)
4. North-east corner of Council (East of Tarpeena and North East of Mil-Lel to SA-Vic Border) – forestry industry
5. South-east corner of Council (north of Donovans and adjacent to SA-Vic Border and Glenelg River Communities) – forestry industry, tourism/camping on Glenelg River (influx during summer months), emergency services

From the Discussion Paper it would appear that our best options in gaining improved mobile coverage would be a preference of:-

1. Co-location/sharing of mobile infrastructure shared by Mobile Network Operators – this may make any proposition more financially viable given low population in some of our affected areas
2. Co-location with NBN Co Fixed Wireless Infrastructure – we have nine (9) fixed wireless towers planned for construction, hopefully within the next 6-12 months, and this could be a real opportunity to co-locate on existing infrastructure
3. Identification of areas of minimal/poor coverage (as per above) outlining impacts on industry and community of minimal/poor coverage. It would be beneficial if this area was depicted via mapping

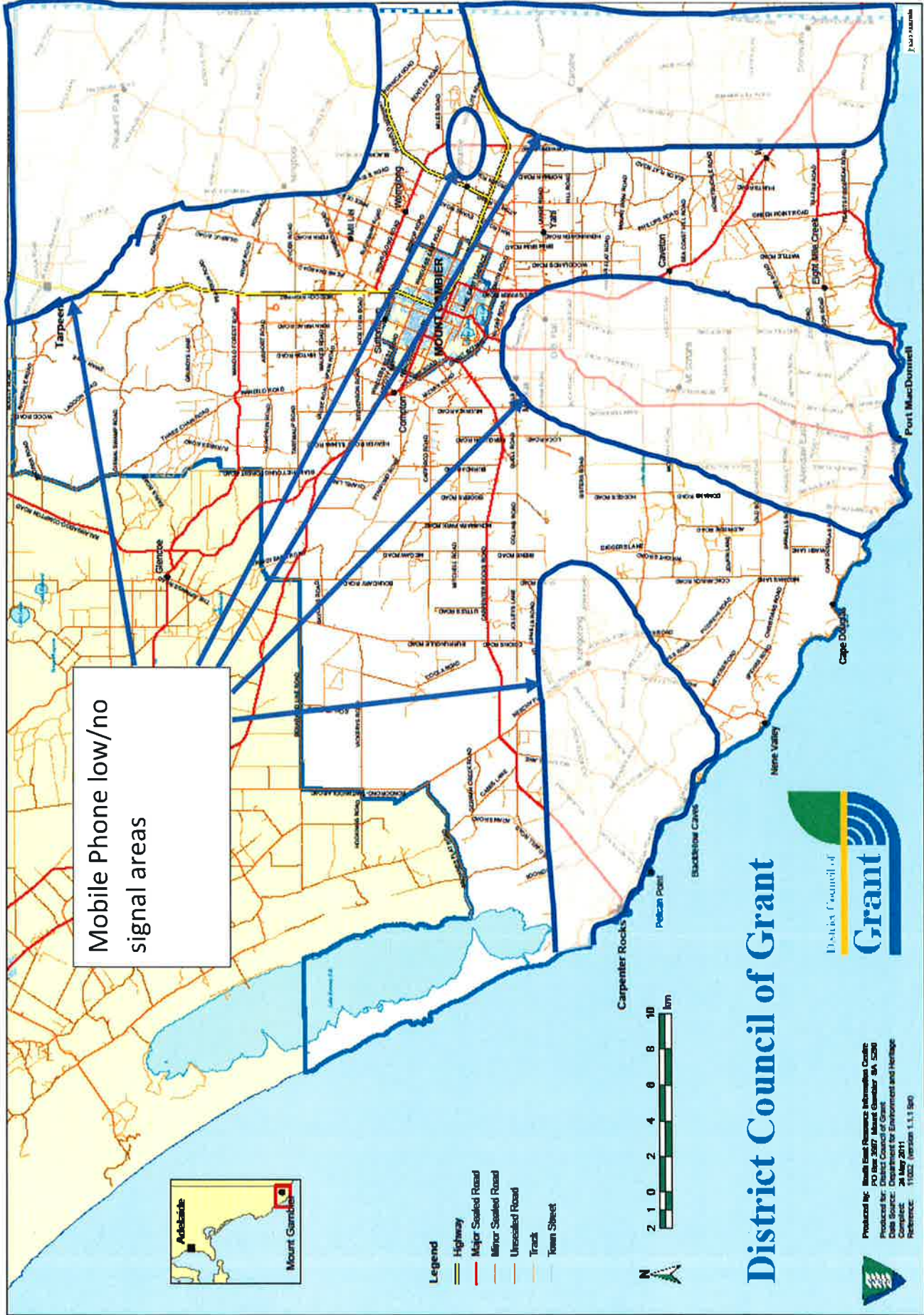
Please don't hesitate to contact this office should you require additional information.

Yours faithfully



**Trevor Smart**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

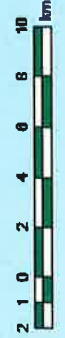




Mobile Phone low/no signal areas



- Legend**
- Highway
  - Major Sealed Road
  - Minor Sealed Road
  - Unsealed Road
  - Track
  - Town Street



# District Council of Grant



Produced by: South Coast Resource Information Centre  
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