

# 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:	L.D. INGRAM (HON. SECRETARY)
Name of organisation:	HOWQUA HILLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
Phone:	
Email:	
Website (if applicable):	
Date:	25 FEBRUARY 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? Yes ☒ No ☐

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

~~ONLY THE MELBOURNE TELEPHONE NUMBER.~~  
DELETE THE MELBOURNE TELEPHONE NUMBER.

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):

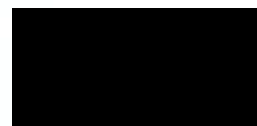
The Manager  
Mobile Coverage Programme  
Department of Communications  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2615

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.

# HOWQUA HILLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(INC)

PRESIDENT. G.PINDER  
SECRETARY. L.INGRAM



The Manager

Mobile Coverage Programme

Department of Communications

GPO Box 2154

CANBERRA 2615

We are a small community located in the Howqua River Valley 30 kms South-east of Mansfield in North-eastern Victoria.

We are surrounded by State Forest and the Alpine National Park, and our primary communication is an old and unreliable land-line telephone. There is no GSM mobile phone coverage in the district and the Telstra 3G signal is only received in a few places above the floor of the valley.

The district is very popular with campers and adventure-seekers.... four-wheel drives, motorcycles, horse-riders, bushwalkers, and canoeists. Each year there are dozens of accidents and searches for missing people, most of whom depend on a mobile phone for their safety. In addition, the emergency services increasingly need mobile phone contact to carry out their tasks.

We consider that the extension of the mobile phone system to enable contact on the valley floor is absolutely essential for safety reasons in the event of bushfire, and to enable the emergency services to complete their tasks in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Ingram

Hon.Secretary

25 February 2014