

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: Ken O'Dowd MP

Name of organisation: Federal Member for Flynn

Phone:

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Website (if applicable):

Date: 27 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):

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

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.



Ken O'Dowd MP

Federal Member for Flynn

2 April 2014

Ref: KO'D;dk

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper Submission

I am writing today regarding the Mobile Coverage Programme and its importance to the electorate of Flynn. Many parts of the region do not benefit from reliable network coverage, and in many cases, experience no coverage whatsoever.

I have been working with my local communities to establish areas of the highest need within Flynn and have so far identified the following key areas of high priority:

- Boyne Valley (Gladstone region)
- Discovery Coast – Town of 1770 down to Baffle Creek/Rules Beach and across to Lowmead and Rosedale (Gladstone region)
- Winfield down to Moore Park Beach and across to Gin Gin's outlying areas including Bucca and South Kolan (Bundaberg region)
- Proston/Durong (South Burnett region)
- Central Highlands including Duaringa, Arcadia Valley and Dawson Developmental Rd (Springsure Tambo Rd)
- Jambin/Callide Valley (Banana region)
- Mount Perry, Monto (North Burnett region)

Details of locations in Banana Shire and Central Highlands regions have been provided by the respective Councils in the attached letters.

The areas listed above do not host the necessary population required to justify 100% private enterprise investment in mobile communications infrastructure. However, despite limited population these areas host significant volumes of seasonal traffic, have been subject to significant natural disasters and are host to substantial resources and agricultural based industry.

In light of over \$100 billion of downstream resources investment and development in the Gladstone Region alone, it has become increasingly apparent that these regions require significantly upgraded communications to cope with the increase in transit from upstream to downstream resources assets.

Added to this the continued development and competitiveness of the regions rich and productive agricultural sector is heavily reliant on technological advancements in communications.

Significant flooding in both 2010/11 and again in 2013 also highlighted the need for better coverage when communities of the Boyne Valley, Lowmead and Baffle creek were physically cut off for significant periods of time and lost all landline communications.

Over the last twelve months, local communities and I have been engaging with Telstra to establish a preliminary understanding of what's required to improve coverage. To date, Telstra have been cooperative and I am confident that we can continue to work together to deliver positive outcomes for the community.

I therefore welcome the introduction of the Mobile Coverage Programme and your consideration of the areas listed above as ideal candidates for cooperative funding to improve communications infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards



Ken O'Dowd MP
Federal Member for Flynn

Attachments:

- Letter from Central Highlands Regional Council
- Letter from Banana Shire Council