

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: Marina Lewis

Name of organisation:

Phone:

Email:

Website (if applicable):

Date: 30.4.14

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):

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.

28 February 2014

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the Federal Government Discussion Paper "Mobile Coverage Programme" I would like to request that Gellibrand River be included in the list of priority locations to benefit from this funding.

I would like to suggest that the criteria for decision-making with regard to the mobile phone coverage priority locations, which I understand is still being considered, be the extensive work that authorities have already done to assess the vulnerability of communities.

The township of Gellibrand River has been assessed as having an extreme risk of fire. The road through the town is a major transport route for log trucks and tourists. The town is also subject to extreme weather and high rainfall making the road dangerous year round. Several kilometers of this road have no mobile phone reception.

As a resident I am also a professional person working from my home office and reliant on an up-to-date phone (and telecommunications generally) capacity. Most businesses and agencies are city-based and assume a mobile connection. Lack of adequate communication capacity is both socially and professionally disadvantageous compared with urban residents, a situation likely to compound as time goes on.

This situation is having an impact on our community; for example, local business owners are finding the lack of adequate communication capacity a barrier to finding qualified workers who are willing to be located in the area. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that it is a barrier for vulnerable people in our community to remain connected with family and support networks in other towns.

Our community will be very grateful for your support on this issue.

Sincerely,


Marina Lewis