

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:	Clr Bill McAnally
Name of organisation:	Orana Regional Organisation of Councils
Phone:	
Email:	oroc@oroc.com.au
Website (if applicable):	www.oroc.com.au
Date:	28 th January 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):

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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

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.

Orana Regional Organisation of Councils

PO Box 115

NARROMINE NSW 2821

oroc@oroc.com.au | www.oroc.com.au

28th January 2014

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

via email: mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au

Dear Manager,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Communication's Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.

The Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) comprises a large and diverse region of 12 local government areas covering approximately 20% of the geographical area of Central West, North West and Far Western NSW.

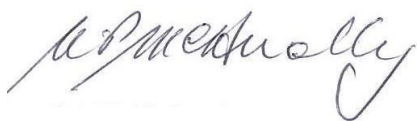
For many years OROC Member Councils have been disturbed by the poor mobile coverage in the region. The Mayors of OROC are continually approached by members of their community and visitors to the region regarding the lack of adequate mobile coverage, especially along major highway routes including the Newell, Mitchell, Barrier, Golden and Castlereagh Highways.

As such the following points are presented for consideration:

- There has been a continued inadequate delivery of services to regional, rural and remote NSW for both voice and data services.
- It is vital that any allocation of funding to improve services is not used to expand any one network provider's footprint.
- Rural, regional and remote NSW require investment and competition to bring equitable price and service innovation to residents and businesses.
- Satellite phones have assisted productivity and work safety in areas of this region (not necessarily classified as remote) that do not receive any mobile service whatsoever. OROC encourages the Federal Government to continue its Satellite Phone Subsidy.
- Where there is a lack of mobile service in a community, ensure that a public/pay phone is readily accessible and available, especially for emergency situations.

On behalf of OROC I look forward to the opportunity to discuss these issues further.

Yours Sincerely,



Clr Bill McAnally
**Chair
Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)**