

Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper Submission Cover Sheet

Submission Information	
<p>This cover sheet should be attached to submissions made to the Department of Communications in relation to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.</p>	
<p>Contact Details</p>	
Name of respondent:	[REDACTED]
Name of organisation:	Quinnip Community Assoc
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Website (if applicable):	www.quinnip.net.au
Date:	25.02.2014
<p>Confidentiality and privacy</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Do you want all or parts of the submission to be treated as confidential? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes, identify below which parts of the submission are to be treated as confidential (and provide a reason):</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <p>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:</p> <p>Submission Instructions</p> <p>Submissions are to be made by 5:00pm (AEST) Friday 28 February 2014.</p> <p>Where possible, submissions should be lodged electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats via the email address mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au</p> <p>Alternatively, submissions can be sent to the postal address below (to arrive by the due date):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Manager Mobile Coverage Programme Department of Communications GPO Box 2154 CANBERRA ACT 2615</p> <p>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.</p>	

Submission for the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper

The Quinninup Community Association is submitting an application for the settlement of Quinninup to be placed on the list of locations for areas that have poor or no mobile coverage. We wish for this application to receive the highest priority as the area is a high fire risk location with the potential for death to occur to individuals as a result of the current lack of reliable communications.

Last year an incident occurred that brought home to the residents their vulnerability due to poor mobile reception in the area. An out of control bushfire was burning 6 kilometres from the settlement and there was no power to operate television based emergency communication, the radio signal is too weak to be picked up by a battery operated radio, or any radio for that matter. The only landline was out of service and stayed that way for four days, and the mobile tower was also out of service due to there being NO POWER.

Geographic Description

- Quinninup is situated 30 klms south of Manjimup in the state of Western Australia.
- The settlement is located in a valley and surrounded on three sides by state forest and a National Park consisting of mature Karri and Jarrah trees with understorey of native shrubs
- Wheatley Coast Road is the only way in or out of the settlement
- There are several permanent businesses in the settlement made up of:
 - A computer installation and repair business,
 - A builder
 - A tavern
 - A caravan park
 - An artist
 - A professional photographer
 - An engineer
- There are at present 93 houses occupied by a mixture of full time and part-time residents. The number of houses has doubled in number over the past ten years and is increasing.
- A map of the settlement is attached for your information.

Population

- The population is made up of some employed residents, elderly retirees, fly-in fly-out workers, unemployed and disabled pensioners, and short term accommodation visitors and during the holiday periods it doubles with holiday home occupants and tourists.
- The Munda Biddi Bicycle Trail passes through the settlement and there are three established walk trails in the vicinity.

Current Communication Services Available

- Land line supplied only by Telstra
 - In the past 4 weeks several residents have been without service for a period of up to 4 days.
- A Telstra Mobile Communication Tower is located 8 klms away on Wheatley Coast Road to the south of the South West Highway.
 - Only residents located on Wheatley Coast Road receive a reliable mobile signal
 - No mobile reception available for any of the residents located on Karri Lane or any of the cul-de-sacs leading off it

Conclusion

A reliable and competitive mobile service is urgently needed within the area. Many residents do not have a mobile phone due to inability to receive any reception and the high cost of the only provider in this area, Telstra.