

## **Submission Cover Sheet**

<b>Submission Information</b>	
<b>This cover sheet should be attached to submissions made to the Department of Communications in relation to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.</b>	
<b>Contact Details</b>	
<b>Name of respondent:</b>	Lani Houston
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<b>Date:</b>	28 February 2014
<p><b>Confidentiality and privacy</b></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? <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <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><b>Submission Instructions</b></p> <p>Submissions are to be made by <b>5:00pm (AEST) Friday 28 February 2014</b>.</p> <p>Where possible, submissions should be lodged electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats via the email address <a href="mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au">mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au</a></p> <p>Alternatively, submissions can be sent to the postal address below (to arrive by the due date):</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The Manager              Mobile Coverage Programme              Department of Communications              GPO Box 2154              CANBERRA ACT 2615</p> </div> <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>	

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28 February 2014

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To Whom It May Concern

RDA Riverina welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper. RDA Riverina through its Regional Planning process identified that reliable & efficient telecommunication infrastructure is essential to enable and encourage business/industry growth (including home Based business) and service sector delivery. Improving the mobile service coverage as well as access to faster broadband both fibre, fixed wireless and satellite will be vital in many Riverina communities. To view the RDA Riverina Plan visit <http://www.rdariverina.org.au/regional-plan.aspx>

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RDA Riverina will not make a definite recommendation on the delivery option for the Mobile Network Expansion Project program options only that the following points need to be considered:-

- Multiple MNO's or consortia of MNO's need to have access to the infrastructure to ensure competitive pricing and maintenance of the infrastructure in a timely manner.
- Local Government, Emergency Services (Fire, Ambulance, SES) need to be consulted in determining priority areas for mobile network expansion.
- Open access and the co-location of telecommunication infrastructure (mobile, broadband, radio, TV) services is imperative and cost effective, especially in isolated areas.

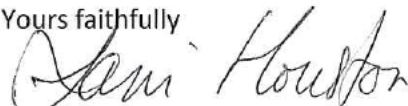
The RDA Riverina Regional Plan 2013-2015 has identified in Strategy 1.4 Telecommunications that it is to support initiatives that reduce mobile blackspots. Some mobile service area blackspots experienced and communicated to RDA Riverina include (but are not limited to):-

(All areas identified are in the Riverina region of NSW)

- Lockhart Shire Council – between Lockhart & Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Wagga City Council, Narrandera Shire Council, Murrumbidgee Shire Council & Hay Shire Council – Sturt Highway between Wagga Wagga & Hay numerous blackspots.
- Coleambally – Kidman Way Highway between Darlington Point & Jerilderie
- Temora – Burley Griffin Way either side of Temora
- Carrathool Shire Council – numerous sections of the Shire including highways such as Kidman Way, Mid Western Highway
- Hay Shire Council – Sturt Highway between Hay & Balranald, Cobb Highway

Access to high speed broadband has reduced in centres such as Wagga Wagga, Temora, Griffith due to the over allocation of the current broadband service. This also needs to be addressed in these communities. There may also be other communities but these have been reported to RDA Riverina.

Yours faithfully



Lani Houston  
CEO

