

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:	Shane Love MLA, State Member for Moore, Western Australia
Name of organisation:	Electorate of Moore, WA
Phone:	(08) 99 214818
Email:	shane.love@mp.wa.gov.au
Website (if applicable):	
Date:	February 28, 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.



Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull
Minister for Communications
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28 February 2014

Dear Minister Turnbull

Mobile Coverage Program

I wish to make a submission in response to the launch of the Mobile Coverage Programme. I represent the state Electorate of Moore, a rural seat north of Perth spanning some 72,000 km² with a population in excess of 30,000 persons.

I appreciate the challenge in providing mobile coverage to areas of WA with a dispersed population. However, there is an enormous opportunity cost for business that experiences poor and intermittent mobile coverage. In addition, there are obvious safety issues that arise with bushfires as well as coastal and road accidents. The construction of the Indian Ocean Road - a coastal route north of Perth - has seen a vast increase in the number of metropolitan visitors to coastal communities at weekends and during the summer holiday season.

The Royalties for Regions-funded Regional Mobile Coverage Program (RMCP) will see the installation of 113 towers throughout regional WA over a three year timeframe. This delivery model has been highly efficient and transformed communication capabilities in many WA regional communities already.

One of the primary aims of the RMCP program was to boost coverage along major arterial roads. The afore-mentioned Indian Ocean Drive was not constructed at the time of planning for the RMCP and there remains many blackspots along what is now a major tourist route carrying in excess of 2,000 vehicles daily.

Although there are many areas in my electorate with poor mobile coverage, I would like to highlight four communities – all within the Federal seat of Pearce - that I consider are in urgent need of improved mobile services.



Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore

- **Morangup** - a rural subdivision 70km north east of the Perth CBD, with 700 residents. This area backs on to the Avon River and the Avon Valley National Park. Located in the Shire of Toodyay, this district hosts the Avon Descent every August with 600 competitors taking part. The Avon Descent is the longest white water event in the world and between 3,000 and 5,000 visitors in the form of competitors, support crew and spectators visit the district at this time. This area is predominantly remnant vegetation and residents are extremely vulnerable in the event of bushfires as there are limited exit roads to the north.
- **Maryville Heights** - a rural subdivision 50km north of the Perth CBD in the southern part of the Chittering Shire. This community is 6km east of the Great Northern Highway and runs north of the Muchea East Road. There are 380 residences in Maryville Heights with further subdivisions to the south of Muchea East Road. The area is well wooded and wildfire poses a serious threat. The Telstra signal is poor and some residents who have installed 'smart antennas' have seen little improvement in service. The Bushfire Brigade is active in the area, however the captain of the brigade lives in a Telstra blackspot area.
- **Seabird** – a coastal community within the Shire of Gingin which is 100km north of the Perth CBD with a static population of 100 persons. This population swells to 1,000 during the summer holiday period. A new coastal road, the Indian Ocean Drive has increased accessibility to this district with many more people visiting for weekends and on day trips. There is a Fire Brigade in Seabird but no volunteer ambulance service. The closest hospital is at Joondalup, 75km to the south. There is only one access road in and out of Seabird, which raises serious safety concerns should a bushfire approach from the east. Residents wanting to work from home are severely limited by the poor mobile service. There is an increasing level of concern surrounding the use of 4WD vehicles on the beach and dunes by the many visitors to the area.
- **Ledge Point** – a coastal community 120km north of Perth within the Shire of Gingin with a static population of 200 persons. This population swells to 3,000 at peak periods. The local caravan park can accommodate 500 persons and is full to capacity at weekends. There is one access road from the east linking the town with the Indian Ocean Drive. In the event of wildfire from the east, residents have no route out. There are increasingly issues surrounding the use of 4WD vehicles on the sand dunes and beach which increase the likelihood of accidents occurring. In the event of an accident, there is little chance of raising the alarm with a mobile phone.

All correspondence to: 3/5 Chapman Rd, Geraldton, WA 6530 **Mobile:**0427 684 596

Email:Shane.Love@mp.wa.gov.au



Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore

Federal Member for Pearce, Hon Christian Porter MP is aware of the limited mobile service in these communities and this submission serves to complement his submission made last month. There are safety concerns at stake within each of these communities and for this reason, I urge you to consider an upgrade to mobile phone services.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I would be happy to provide further detail if required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shane Love".

Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore

cc: Hon Christian Porter MP, Federal Member for Pearce