

# 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

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Date: 27/2/14

#### 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):

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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](mailto: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.

**To whom it may concern**

Flinders Shire Council would like to submit to the Department of Communications that any strategy to improve mobile coverage in Regional Australia would take into consideration the following:

- The Commonwealth Government's Role in Infrastructure Provision
- The unique issues faced in our region with areas such as Mt Walker that currently blocks any signal heading south.

With the increasing use of the internet and mobile devices for everything from mapping, financial and social interactions, (often during our high tourist season) the internet and mobile signals tends to suffer dramatically. The expansion of access to a widening range of internet based services and the Queensland Digital Economy Strategy having such a predictable shortfall in connectivity, has led to less people and businesses being confident in relying on internet and other service providers to reliably provide for consumers. This often leads to service provided at an inflated cost or simply not being available in regional areas.

One strategy would be to assess the various joint enterprise and contribution models held with the telecommunication service providers and invest in infrastructure that would otherwise be financially unviable for the private industries. Such arrangements could be standardised and easily requested, as well as negotiated by third parties to ensure value for money and service levels are reached.

Within our region we have areas such as Elvira Station on the Hughenden Winton Road which lacks access to any sort of mobile coverage. The most basic of signal repeater foxed infrastructure would allow people south of MT walker (only 10kms out of town) to access mobile phones and eventually other services the rest of the state has had access to and are already utilising. Optic Fibre runs down along Elvira making it an ideal location for exceptional coverage providing better utilisation.

If any implementation methods are installed, Council ask that the systems and service providers already in place are considered, as well as use local knowledge available in each effected regions by developing a plan that will benefit all mobile users.

Regards



Leanne Rogers  
Director of Corporate Services