

# 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:	Glenn Wilcox - General Manager
Name of organisation:	Blayney Shire Council
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Website (if applicable):	<a href="http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au">www.blayney.nsw.gov.au</a>
Date:	26 February 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](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.

# Blayney Shire Council



26 February 2014

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

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Mobile Coverage Programme – Discussion Paper**

Reference is made to the above mentioned program seeking input to the Discussion Paper in relation to the above matter.

Council thanks you for the opportunity to provide input to this important document. It considers the current communications discussion being held as commendable, and a positive step toward providing for the future communications needs of the nation.

As a member of the Central NSW Councils (CENTROC), Council commends to you the work undertaken by that organisation and requests that you consult with CENTROC, as there is extensive knowledge within the region to provide further advice.

**About Blayney Shire**

Blayney Shire has an area of 1,524.7 square kilometres and is located in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales, approximately three hours by road from the centre of Sydney. The principal town in the Shire is Blayney, situated some 37km southwest of Bathurst and approximately 244km by road from Sydney. It is the centre of a district, which stretches east to Bathurst, southwest to Cowra and north to Orange. Blayney Shire is comprised of a number of villages including Millthorpe; Carcoar; Mandurama; Lyndhurst; Neville; Newbridge; Hobbys Yards and Barry. The Shire sits at an altitude of 850 meters above sea level.

At the 2011 census the Shire had a population of 6,985 persons equally distributed between men and women. The Shire has a relatively young population and even distribution across the age groups. The median age was 40 years compared to 37 for Australia.

Council owns and maintains 751 kilometres of road throughout the Shire. Transport and Communications are a key issue and the Shire is serviced by the Mid-Western Highway that links Bathurst (35km) in the east with Marsden to the west, and services the larger regional centre of Cowra (69km) south of Blayney. Blayney is also linked to Orange via a road to the north-west. Other roads provide connections to Canberra via Goulbourn and Forbes via Canowindra.

Blayney Shire is predominately rural in nature, supporting primary industries such as dairying, beef, lamb, wool, viticulture, orchards, potatoes, canola and other grains. Mining is also a key industry and the area supports other industrial activities such as manufacturing, transportation and food processing.

It is noted that the funding is made up of two elements:

1. the \$80 million Mobile Network Expansion Project will improve mobile coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and in areas that are prone to experiencing natural disasters; and
2. the \$20 million Mobile Black Spot Project will improve mobile coverage in locations with unique coverage problems such as areas with high demand for services.

Council notes the discussion paper focuses on the most suitable procurement process going forward, and refers you to the Centroc submission for further advice.

In relation to mobile black spots, and a specific request from The Hon John Cobb MP, Council provides the following advice as identified from stakeholder engagement.

### **Communications on key routes**

In reference to those key routes identified above, ACMA Mobile Spectrum Licensing sites are only located along the Mid-Western Highway, providing generally good coverage along the route

Outside of the Shire, these sites are also located on the Bathurst – Goulburn road to the South of the Blayney shire, providing some level of coverage.

### **Existing Network Coverage**

Mobile telephony in the Blayney Shire is provided by 2 network owners – Telstra, and Optus and various resellers.

Telstra currently operates from the following sites in the Blayney Shire:

- Blayney – Telstra Exchange, 60 Adelaide Street, Blayney
- Panuara - 1460 Cadia Road, Panuara

Optus currently operate from the following sites in the Blayney Shire:

- Blayney – Church Hill Monopole, Lowe Street, Blayney
- Burnt Yards – via Ewins Lane, Carcoar
- Optus Tower – 108 Richards Lane, Millthorpe

## **Coverage Maps**

A review of the network owners coverage maps was also undertaken and these can be found in Appendix A. – Shire Coverage Maps and Appendix B. – Village Coverage Detail.

## **Community Submissions**

As identified in "Blayney Shire 2025 *All the pieces together* – The strategic plan of the Blayney Shire community, the Community has identified that it needs:

- adequate provision of transport, roads, rail, information and communication technologies and community social assets. (CSP 4.1)
- a safe community (CSP 6.4)

Council undertook to seek community input, promoting the discussion paper via its website and social media sites, and a direct letter to the various village/progress associations. A report was also presented to the ordinary February meeting of Council, promoting Council's submission and as a further reminder to the community to become engaged in the discussion.

As of 26 February 2014, Council had received a variety of submissions, which are included below.

### Submission 1. – Resident of Neville (Via Facebook)

*Seeking similar benefits for Neville as those living in town. To use Optus or Telstra mobile in Neville, one presently has to drive up Mandurama Rd or Egbert St. and sit in the car with phone toward Mt Macquarie even then reception is what's called "edge " ( you could drop off at any moment and often do ). With a good Mobile service, residents can streamline to just one account saving a substantial amount each year. Good Mobile now includes local, STD and internet access via the Mobile. Using any cheap smart phone as a "hot spot" for your PC wireless. Many residents currently have and are paying for 3 separate accounts. Good Mobile service makes these redundant. 1. a land line ( as there is no mobile ) 2. Mobile for when you're out and about etc In Neville, your mobile mostly sits around doing nothing. 3. A Sat dish from NBNco for internet access.*

*Regarding NBNco, Many don't realise, NBNco has no satellite ! They won't have one up for about 18 months. What we have, comes to us via an Optus satellite. However, as Govt. did not anticipate the massive uptake, this arranged and insufficient " bandwidth" is so over crowded with traffic, it does not run to the Govt. guaranteed 3mb download speed running on average at 1.5Mb download. So to have good mobile service in Neville and surrounds on par with the rest of Australia and Asia would be fantastic making the NBNco redundant. Currently, the Neville phone exchange in Crouch street is scheduled to be removed in June of 2016. What does Telstra have planned for us then, who knows? Would Mt Macquarie be a good location for a mobile tower ?*

### Submission 2. – Resident of Barry (Via Facebook)

*Same type of thing happening in some areas of Barry with mobile phones and to get wireless internet we have to go to an added expense of getting an aerial.*

### Submission 3. – Council staff member

*Areas in the East of the shire have improved on what they were a few years ago however Neville through to Hobbys Yards to Newbridge are very patchy.*

*Much of the Village Road is patchy. Barry through Moorilda also.*

Submission 4. – Council staff member

*Coverage within the village of Carcoar is weak, with phones constantly seeking connection, causing battery life to be significantly limited, as a result.*

Submission 5. – Council staff member

*Coverage on the eastern boundary of the Shire is poor. The Village of Trunkey whilst outside of the Blayney Shire is home to many who work in Blayney, and is extremely limited in its modern communication capacity. Residents are unable to access the NBN (Optus) Satellite due to it being over subscribed, mobile services are almost non-existent even with external aerials and other technologies to help.*

Submission 6. – Councillor

*Coverage by Telstra is good in the west of the Shire, however not Optus coverage. The Villages of Neville and Trunkey Creek, have very poor coverage. Residents and Emergency Services need better coverage for safety and peace of mind.*

Submission 7. – Resident of Neville (Letter attached)

*Governments have supported decentralisation, providing funding to encourage relocation to regional areas. However infrastructure needs to be of similar standards to that enjoyed in the city for it to realise its maximum impact.*

*My business is negatively affected by no mobile coverage and satellite internet services providing poor speed and capacity, limiting the way I do business, not being able to participate in webinars or hold Skype video links.*

*Visitors to Neville are anxious to leave to maintain contact with family.*

Submission 8. – Resident of Neville

*Mobile coverage is non-existent, with satellite broadband lacking bandwidth and speed, for an exorbitant cost. The existing Neville telephone exchange does not support ADSL data.*

Council thanks you for the opportunity to be involved in the discussion on the Mobile Coverage Program

Yours faithfully

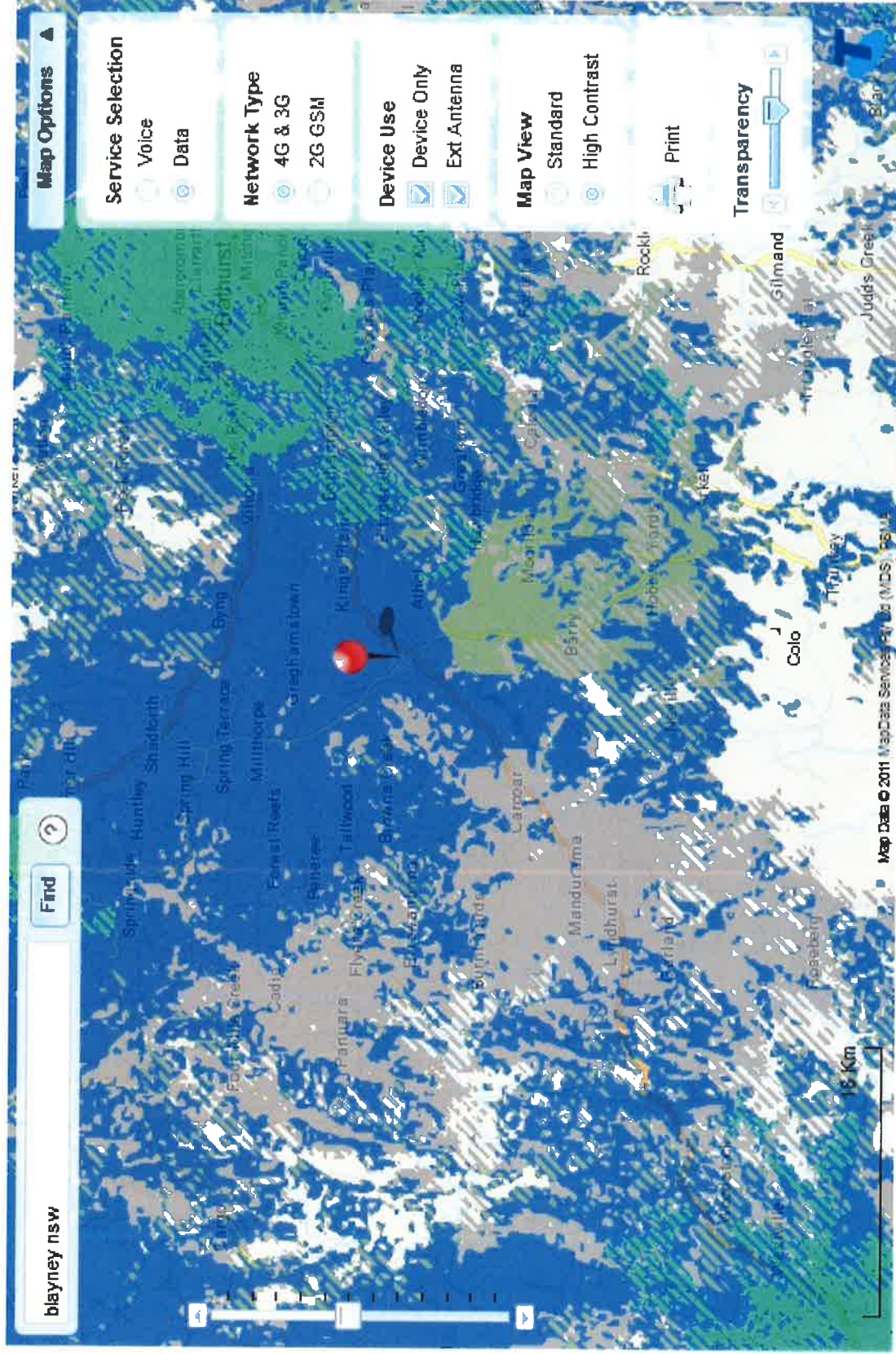


Grant Baker  
**Director Infrastructure Services**

CC: Hon John Cobb MP – Member for Calare  
Hon Paul Toole MP – Member for Bathurst  
Hon Katrina Hodgkinson – Member for Burrinjuck

**APPENDIX A.**  
**Shire Coverage Maps**

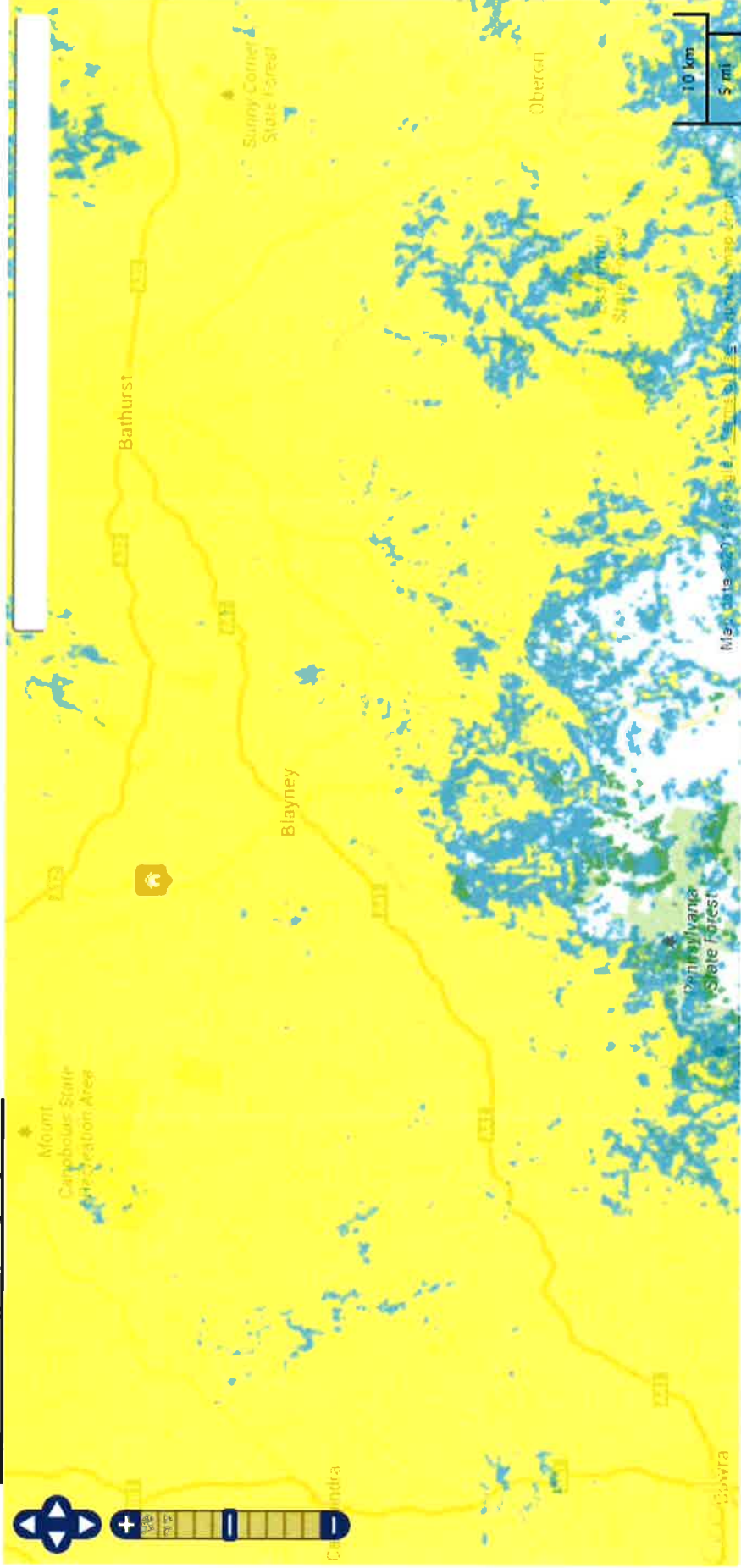
## Telstra Coverage – Blayney Shire



4G typical download speed 2 to 50 Mbps    Typical download speed 1.1 to 20 Mbps    Typical download speed 550 kbps to 8 Mbps    Typical download speed 550 kbps to 3 Mbps

**A diagonal pattern indicates a location where an external antenna may be required. Scroll down for more information.**  
 This is approximate coverage only. Speed and performance depends on your location and device and can be improved with an external antenna.

## Optus Coverage – Blayney Shire



**Coverage:**  3G Outdoor  3G with Antenna  3G Future Coverage

Coverage within the Optus Network is device dependent. To view coverage select the type of device you are using

4G Plus  4G  3G Dual band  3G Single band  2G

Planned Coverage Information

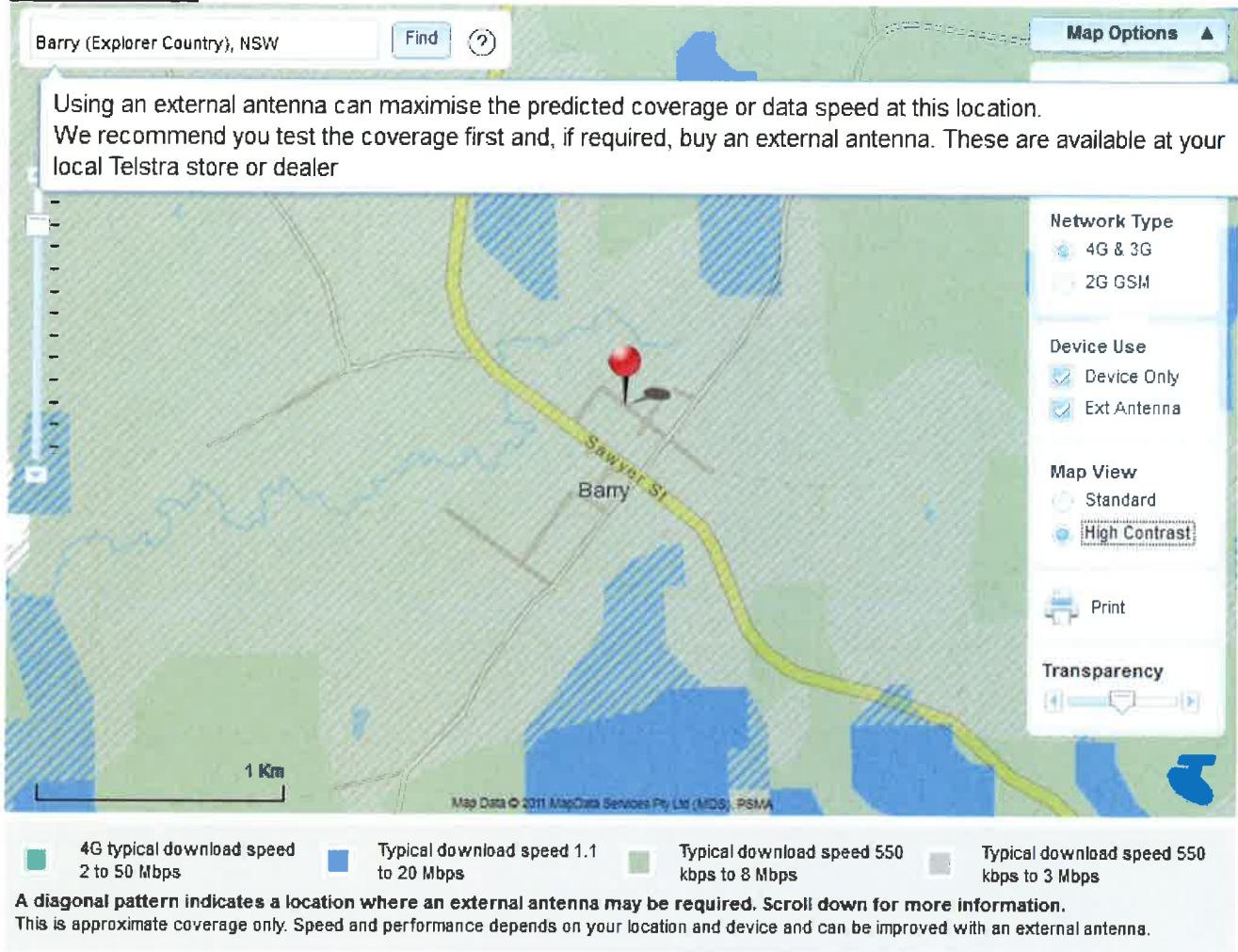
3 Months  6 Months

**Contrast:** 0%  100%



**APPENDIX B.**  
**Village Coverage Maps**

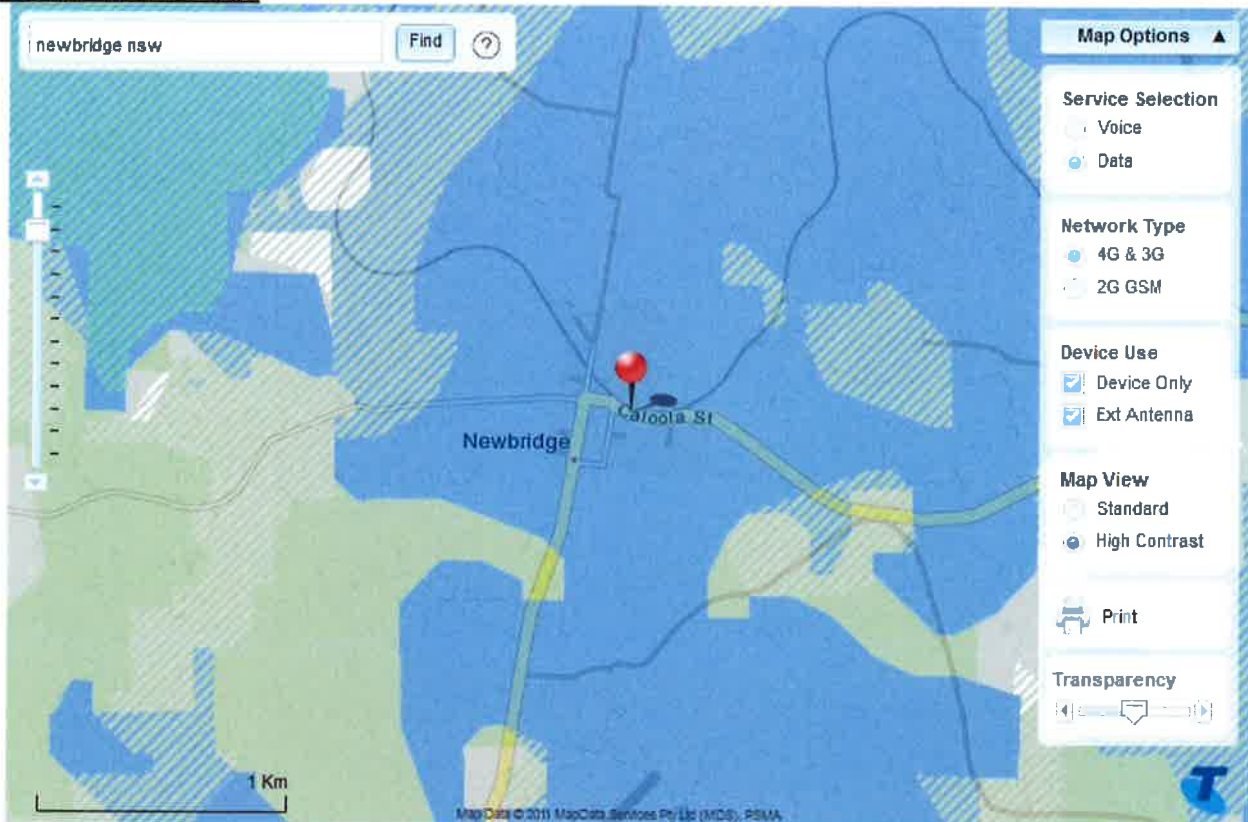
## Telstra - Barry



## Optus - Barry



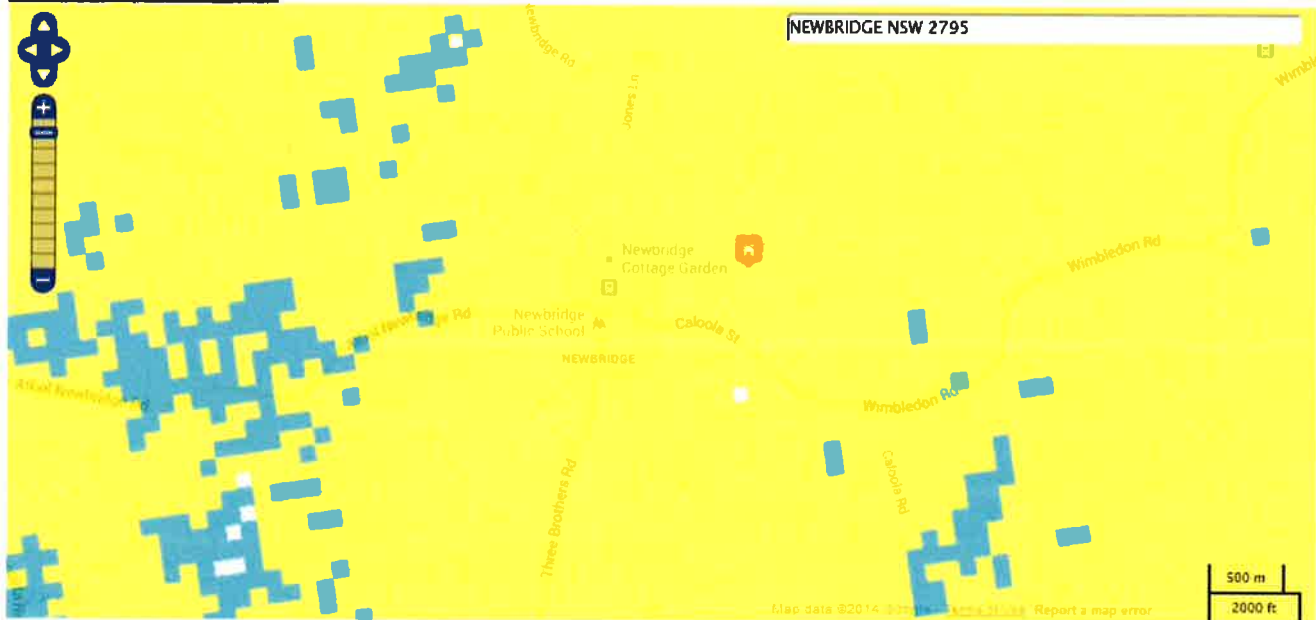
## Telstra – Newbridge



- 4G typical download speed 2 to 50 Mbps
- Typical download speed 1.1 to 20 Mbps
- Typical download speed 550 kbps to 8 Mbps
- Typical download speed 550 kbps to 3 Mbps

A diagonal pattern indicates a location where an external antenna may be required. This is approximate coverage only. Speed and performance depends on your location and device and can be improved with an external antenna.

## Optus – Newbridge



Coverage: ■ 3G Outdoor ■ 3G with Antenna ■ 3G Future Coverage

Coverage within the Optus Network is device dependent. To view coverage select the type of device you are using

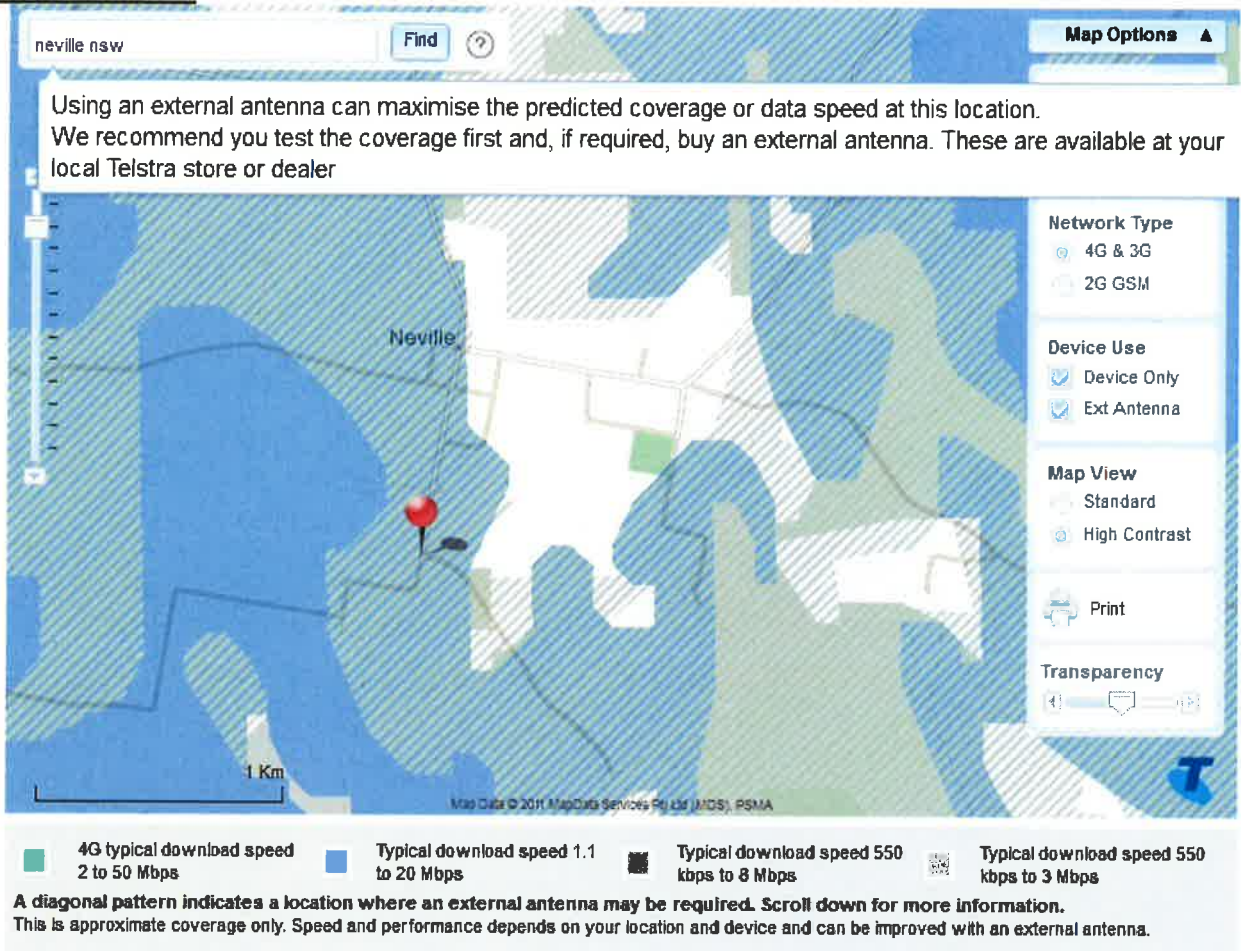
- 4G Plus  4G  3G Dual band  3G Single band  2G

Planned Coverage Information

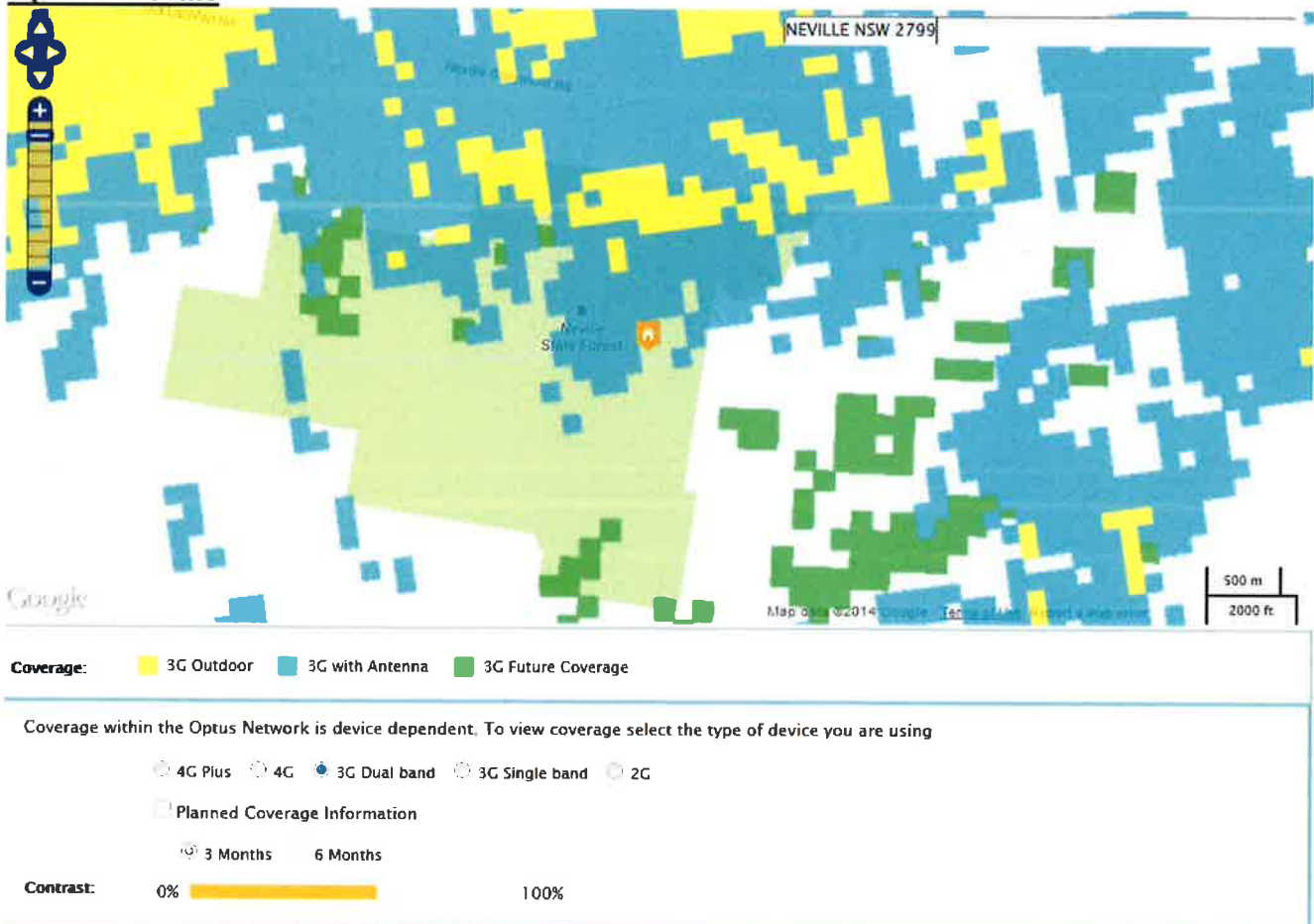
- 3 Months  6 Months

Contrast: 0%  100%

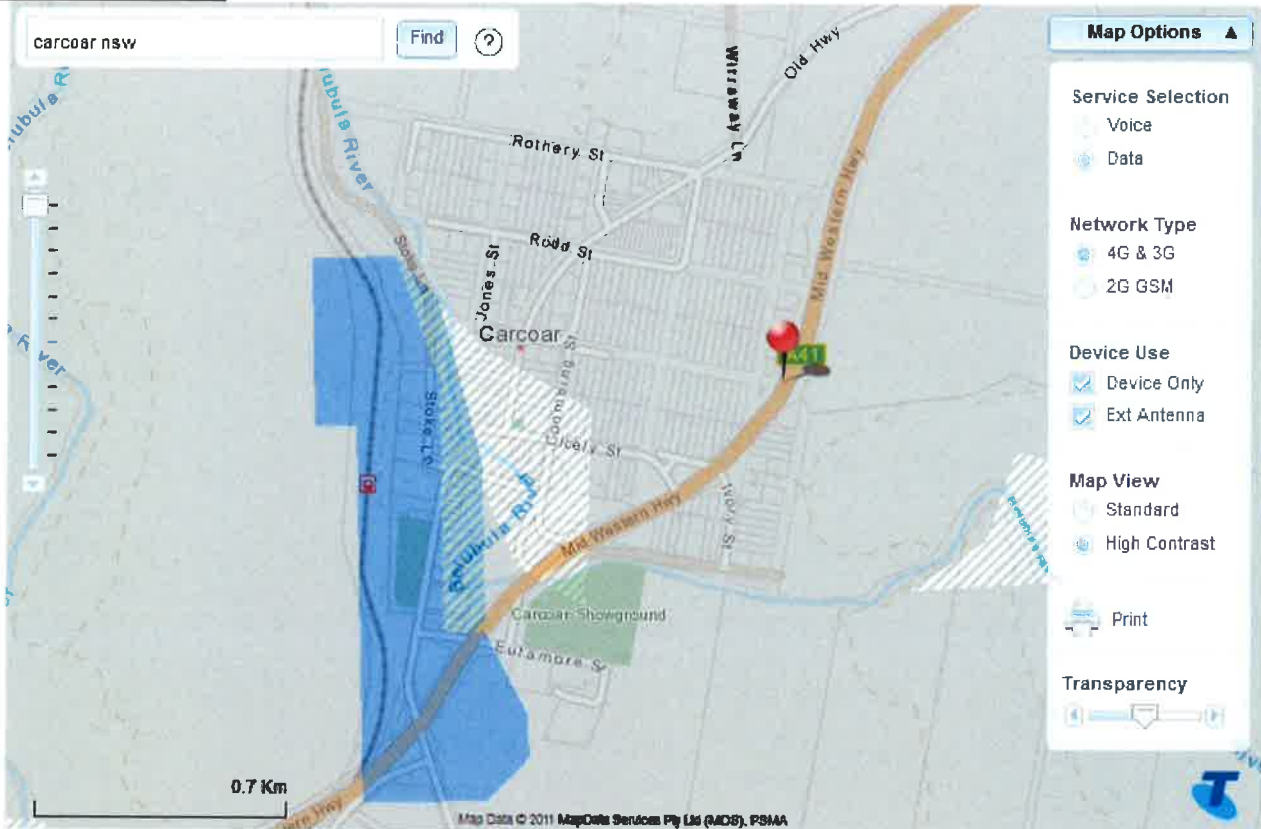
## Telstra – Neville



## Optus – Neville



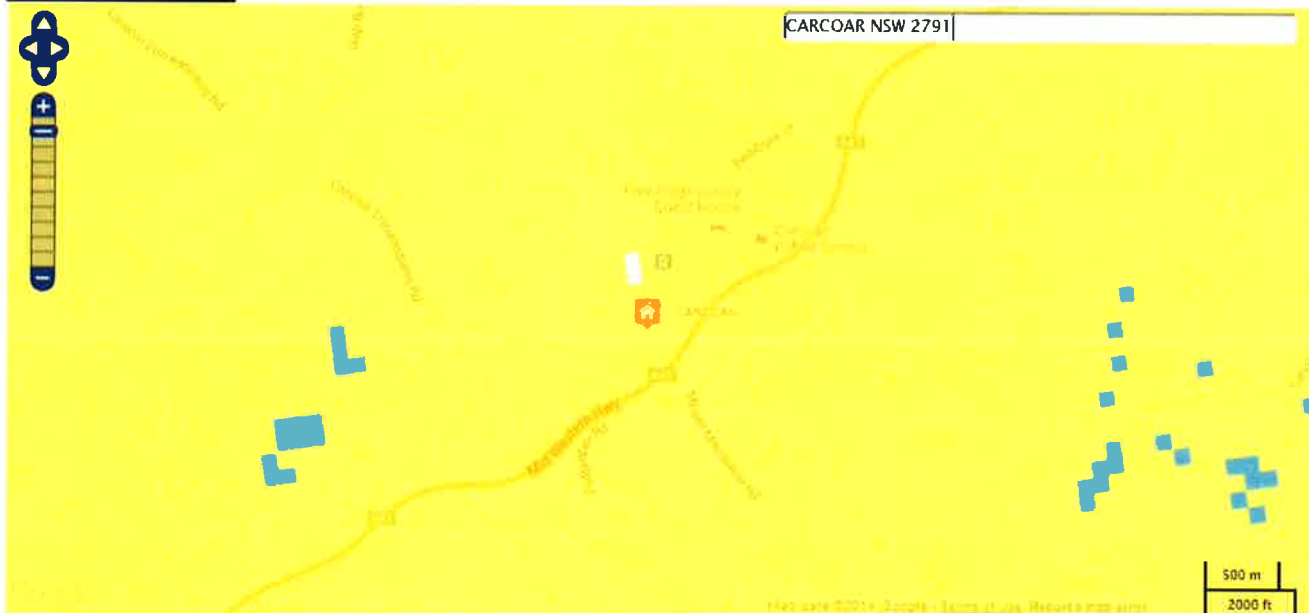
## Telstra – Carcoar



- 4G typical download speed 2 to 50 Mbps
- Typical download speed 1.1 to 20 Mbps
- Typical download speed 550 kbps to 8 Mbps
- Typical download speed 550 kbps to 3 Mbps

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## Optus – Carcoar



Coverage: ■ 3G Outdoor ■ 3G with Antenna ■ 3G Future Coverage

Coverage within the Optus Network is device dependent. To view coverage select the type of device you are using

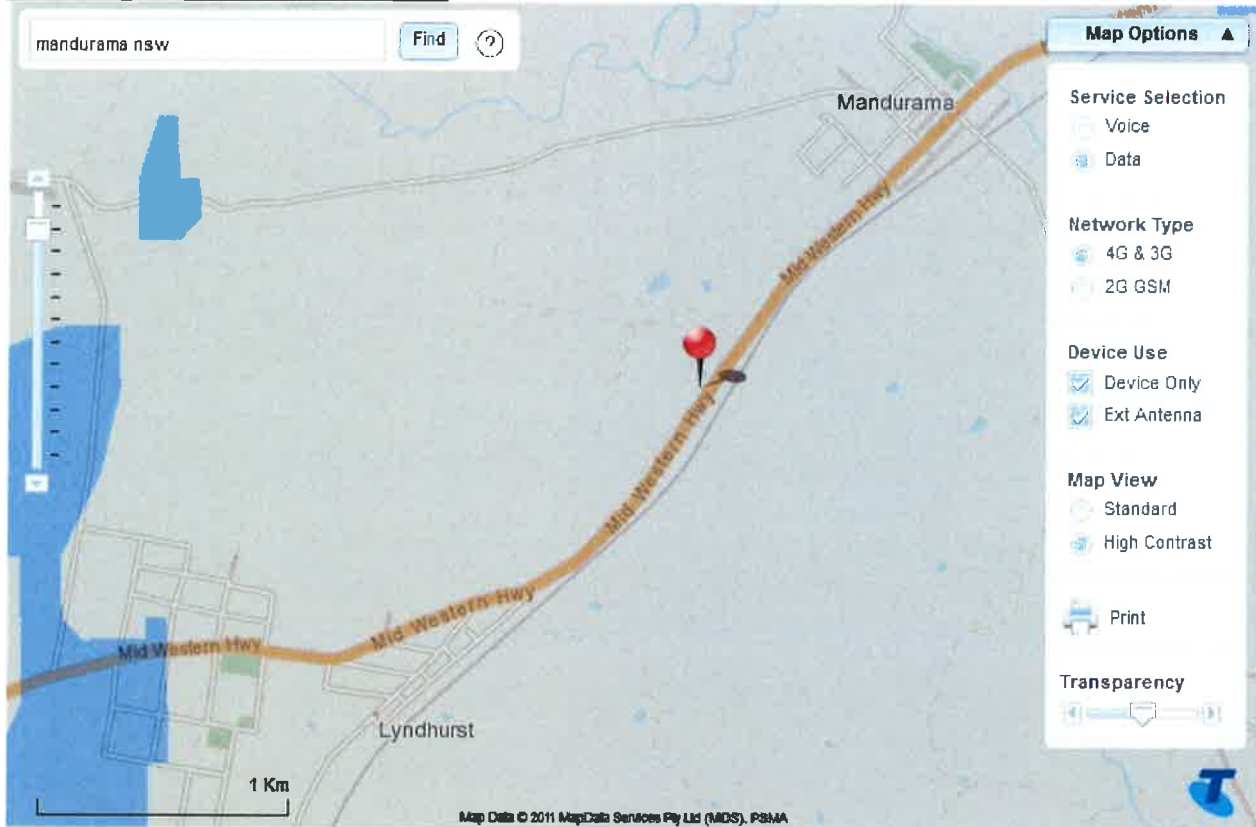
4G Plus 
  4G 
  3G Dual band 
  3G Single band 
  2G

Planned Coverage Information

3 Months 
  6 Months

Contrast: 0%  100%

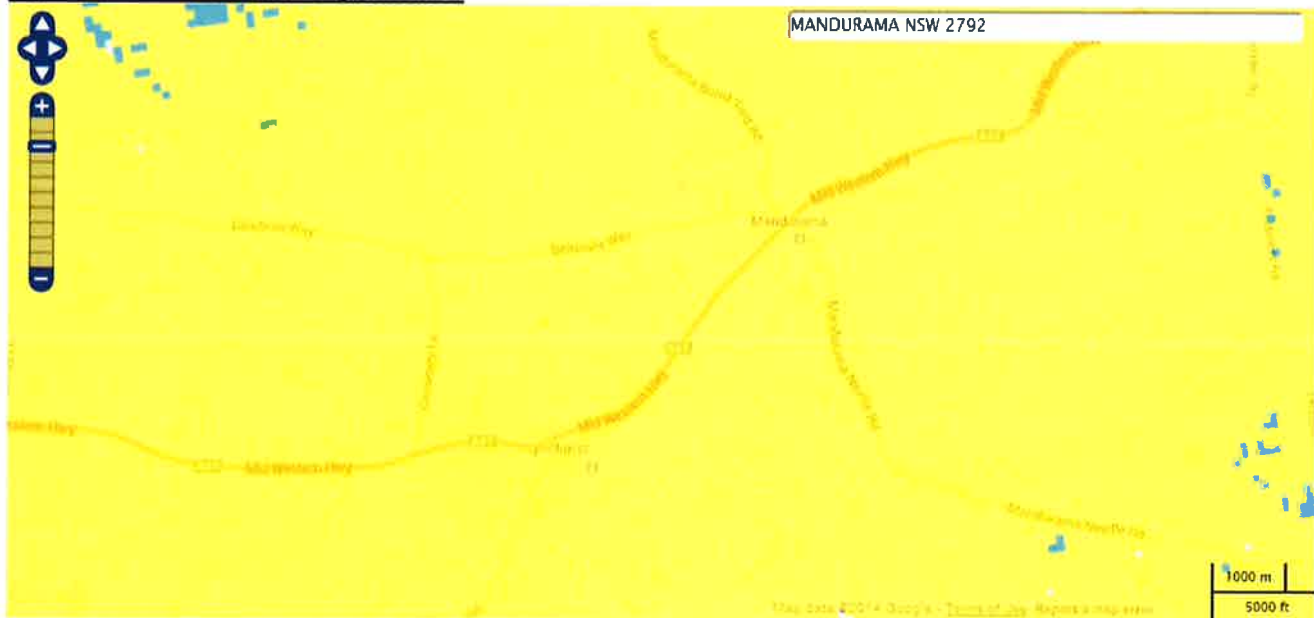
## Telstra – Mandurama - Lyndhurst



- 4G typical download speed 2 to 50 Mbps
- Typical download speed 1.1 to 20 Mbps
- Typical download speed 550 kbps to 8 Mbps
- Typical download speed 550 kbps to 3 Mbps

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## Optus – Mandurama - Lyndhurst



Coverage:  3G Outdoor  3G with Antenna  3G Future Coverage

Coverage within the Optus Network is device dependent. To view coverage select the type of device you are using

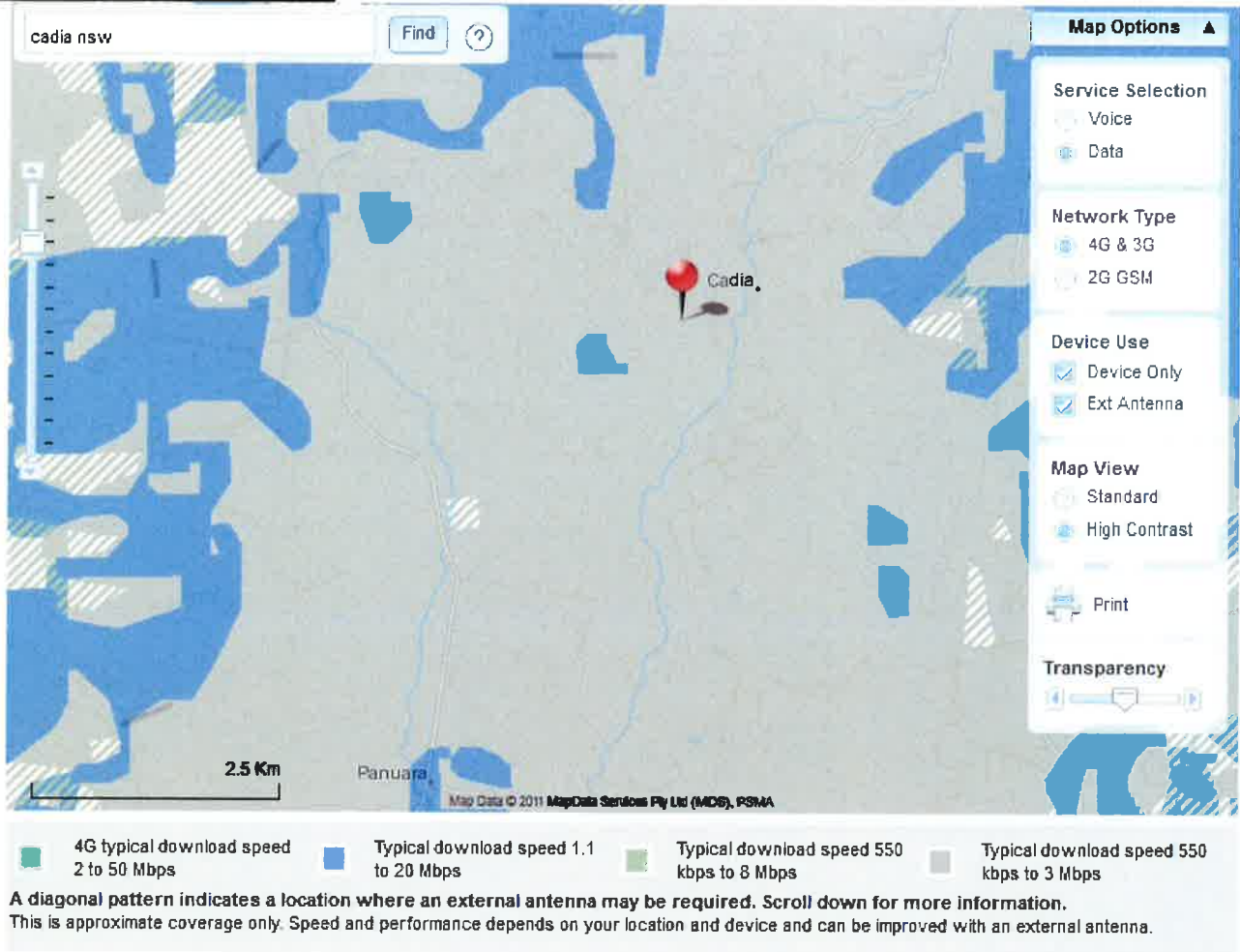
- 4C Plus  4C  3C Dual band  3C Single band  2G

Planned Coverage Information

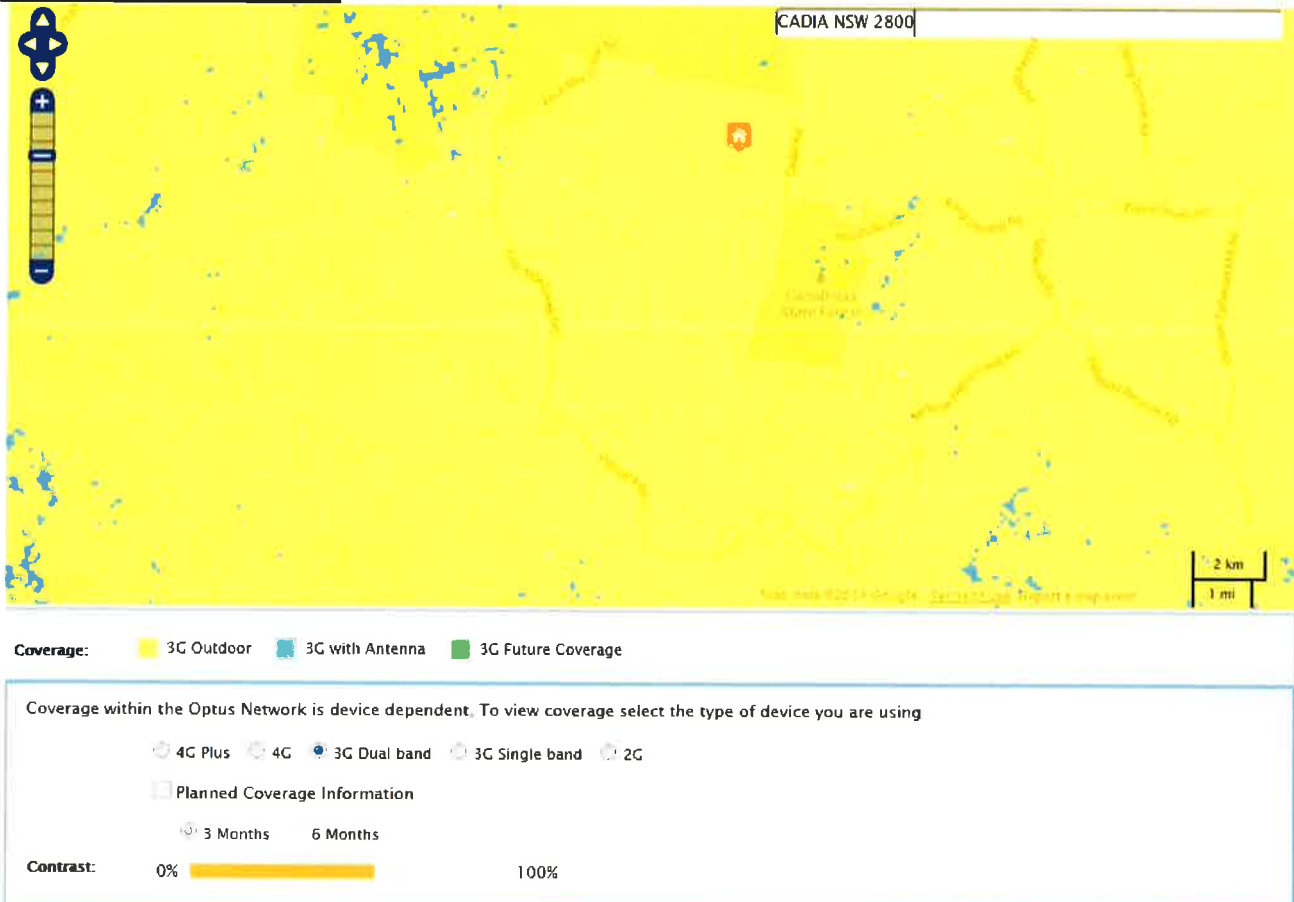
- 3 Months  6 Months

Contrast: 0%  100%

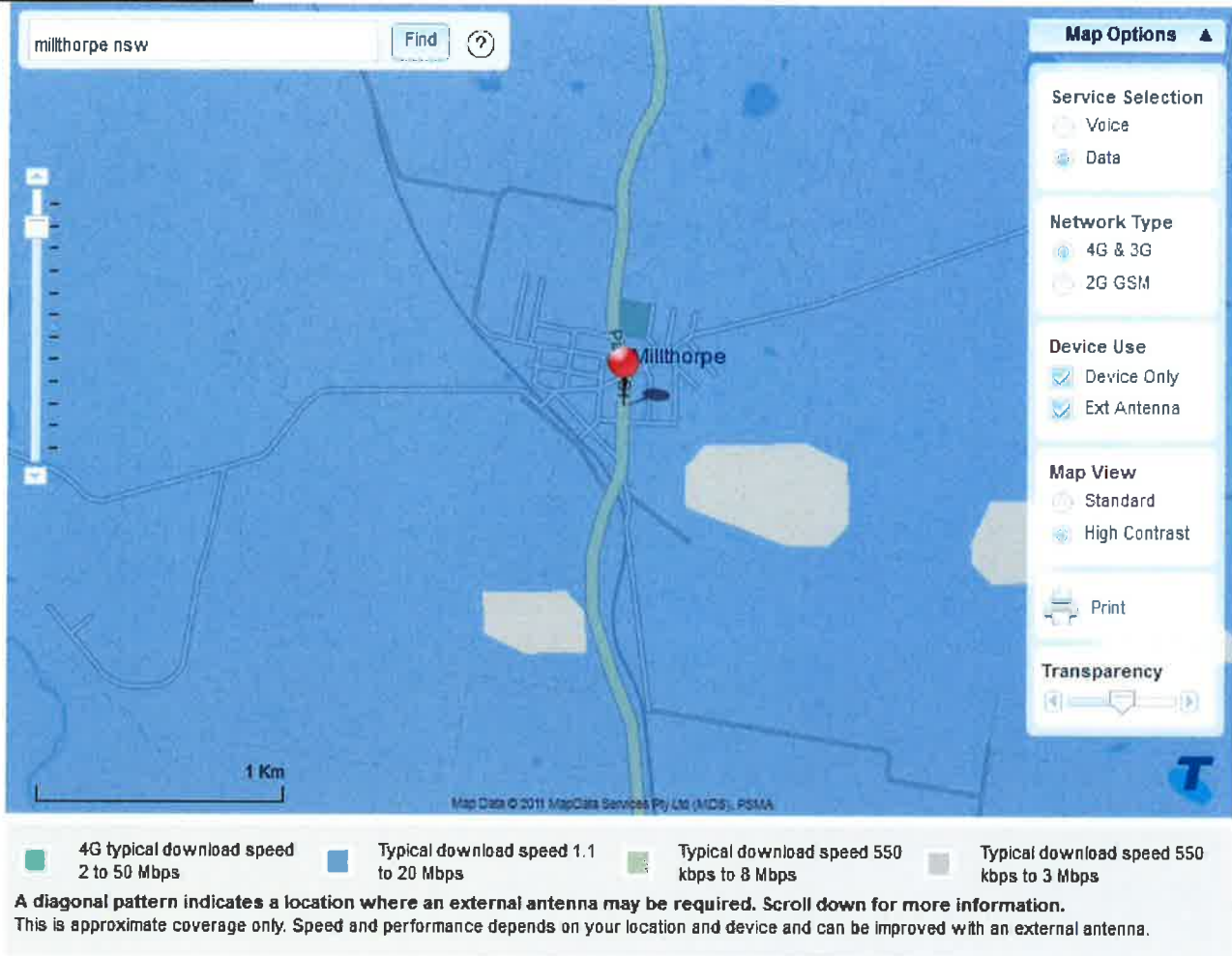
## Telstra – Cadia - Panuara



## Optus – Cadia - Panuara



## Telstra – Millthorpe



## Optus – Millthorpe

