

# 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:	██████████
Name of organisation:	Corangamite Shire Council
Phone:	██████████
Email:	██
Website (if applicable):	www.corangamite.vic.gov.au
Date:	28/02/2014

#### 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.

Our Ref: D/14/7990



## CORANGAMITE SHIRE

28 February 2014

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

Dear Sir

Corangamite Shire is a large rural Council in the Great South Coast region of south west Victoria. We cover an area of around 4,500 square kilometres.

We are a large dairy farm region that produces approximately 30% of Victoria's milk products and we have a large tourist population with around 2.6 million visitors each year to the Great Ocean Road Region and the 12 Apostles.

We have a resident population of around 17,000 with a split between urban and rural of approximately 50%. This means we have a fairly densely populated rural resident population.

The areas of concern for our Shire are the:

- Number of black spots for mobile reception,
- The capacity of area that have reception but limited data transfer during peak times,
- The availability of carriers other than Telstra to get reception,
- The problems with collocation on existing and new towers.

We have a number of areas in our Shire that have either very poor or no reception. These include Scotts Creek, Timboon, Port Campbell and Simpson in the south to Noorat and the Terang district in the central area of the municipality, and areas around Skipton in the north. The southern area of the municipality includes the Great Ocean Road that has enormous visitation, is highly fire prone and populated rural area. There is poor mobile coverage or no mobile coverage in many locations within the municipality.

The capacity of access to mobile data during periods of high usage is also a limiting factor. Our location attracts many events and patrons from outside our area, during these events data download overloads existing capacity of the current towers and make communication impossible.

### **CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL**

Civic Centre, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown VIC 3260  
Telephone 03 5593 7100 Facsimile 03 5593 2695 Email [shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au)  
[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au)

The lack of service and limited reception for providers other than Telstra is often frustrating for visitors from metropolitan areas such as Melbourne who subscribe to companies other than Telstra, such as Optus and Vodafone. This lack of competition limits our residents' selection of a telecommunications carrier. We are situated in the edge of the Great Otway National Park and have the entire Port Campbell National park in our area. During heatwave and high fire danger periods the lack of mobile communications is of major concern to many of the visitors to the Great Ocean Road and iconic 12 Apostles area.

Because of the location of Corangamite Shire, and because of our dispersed settlement pattern and the distance of many residents to key regional centres, it is Council's position that communications technology is a vital future backbone of the local economy. Additional investment is required to support business and economic development.

The issue of co-location of equipment on existing and new towers seems to be difficult to achieve. In our experience carriers seem reluctant to co-locate. This is often likely to be because of commercial considerations and competitiveness between companies. In our experience, it seems doubtful that the National code is effective in achieving co-location.

The rollout of the NBN may address some of these issues however we believe that access to this technology may be limited and have limited improvement that need greater capacity and higher speeds.

If you require further details on some of the areas of concern for our Council, please don't hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Binder', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Terry Binder  
Manager Economic Development and Tourism