

# 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:	[REDACTED]
Name of organisation:	Gilgandra Shire Council
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Website (if applicable):	www.gilgandra.nsw.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):

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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.



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Tel: (02) 6817 8800  
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Contact: [REDACTED]

28 February 2014

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

### MOBILE COVERAGE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Federal Governments proposed Mobile Coverage Programme.

RDA Orana has provided a submission which covers many of the regional issues regarding mobile telecommunications. We will not expand on that except to say we support the submission.

As a rural community, mobile phone coverage has been an ongoing issue for the past 20 years. Obviously, there has been significant improvement in coverage over that time, however there remains blackspots that need to be addressed for business, lifestyle and emergency communications reasons.

In reviewing the proposed Mobile Coverage Programme, Gilgandra Shire Council has concerns with aspects of the *\$20 million Mobile Black Spots Project*. The proposal to have councils and communities partner financially in the development of infrastructure is not achievable for our community. Many councils, Gilgandra included, are already under significant financial pressure to manage aging infrastructure. Expanding our role into partnering in the development of telecommunications infrastructure is not achievable and not the responsibility of local government

Whilst we congratulate the Government on addressing coverage blackspots, We would strongly encourage a rethink of the program requiring councils and communities to partner financially in order to access funding. Partnering in these types of projects would only come at a cost to existing services in the community for which Council is responsible for delivering. .

Yours faithfully

P A Mann  
General Manager