

# Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper

## Submission Cover Sheet

Submission Information	
<p><b>This cover sheet should be attached to submissions made to the Department of Communications in relation to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.</b></p>	
<b>Contact Details</b>	
<b>Name of respondent:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
<b>Phone:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website (if applicable):</b>	www.goulburn.nsw.gov.au
<b>Date:</b>	
<p><b>Confidentiality and privacy</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Do you want all or parts of the submission to be treated as confidential? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes, identify below which parts of the submission are to be treated as confidential (and provide a reason):</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <p>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:</p> <p><b>Submission Instructions</b></p> <p>Submissions are to be made by <b>5:00pm (AEST) Friday 28 February 2014.</b></p> <p>Where possible, submissions should be lodged electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats via the email address <a href="mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au">mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au</a></p> <p>Alternatively, submissions can be sent to the postal address below (to arrive by the due date):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Manager Mobile Coverage Programme Department of Communications GPO Box 2154 CANBERRA ACT 2615</p> <p>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.</p>	

Contact: [REDACTED]  
Reference: CB:DM

20 February 2014

The Manager  
Mobile Coverage Programme  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2615

Dear Sir/Madam

**Subject: Mobile Coverage Programme**

I refer to the Discussion Paper for the Mobile Coverage Programme and the invitation to provide comments.

Goulburn Mulwaree is a community of 28,000 located along the Hume Highway midway between Sydney and Canberra. Some 22,000 people reside in the regional city of Goulburn while the remaining live in the surrounding villages and rural areas. While the rural areas around Goulburn are traditionally grazing properties they are becoming increasingly attractive for 'tree changers' from Sydney and Canberra.

Mobile coverage is strongest along the Hume and Federal Highways, within the city of Goulburn and the village of Marulan both of which are located along the highway corridor.

Moving away from the main highway network the coverage becomes poorer and in many instances non-existent.

With increasing population growth in our rural areas and for Goulburn Mulwaree to continue playing a role as an alternative to the concentration of population in capital cities improved mobile coverage in the rural areas is important. The lack of coverage in these areas also represents a risk to those working in essential services (e.g. electricity supply, road maintenance) and emergency services including care rescues at Bungonia National Park.

Council is not in a position to comment on the various methods of delivery to solve the problem. This is something we will leave to those with greater expertise.

Council can provide some "in kind" assistance to solving delivery problems such as fast tracking any approvals and providing introductions to landowners. Council is not in a position to offer financial support to any solutions developed.

The assessment criteria should specifically include as a priority those areas that are prone to bushfire. For Goulburn Mulwaree these are easily identified as they have been mapped by the Rural Fire Service.

I trust the above assists with the development of the program and thank you for the opportunity to have input.

Yours faithfully



Chris Berry  
**General Manager**

Cc. Federal Member for Hume, Angus Taylor MP  
Helen Swan, Executive Office South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROC)  
Colin McLean, RDA – Southern Inland