

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:	John McDonald
Name of organisation:	Mogandale Bushfire Brigade
Phone:	██████████
Email:	████████████████████
Website (if applicable):	
Date:	27/2/2014

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

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.

[REDACTED]

I am the Captain of Mogandale Bushfire Brigade covering a large area from 10 km North of Condobolin in central NSW.

Presently we have extremely limited mobile coverage in the area to the North and North East of Condobolin. Mobile telephones may work from the tops of hills in some areas. This area is currently serviced by Mt Herring CDMA tower for household/business telephone service. This system is currently over 20 years old and has diminishing reliability. Compounding Bushfire communication problems is the unreliable nature of radio communications in this area, particularly when in heavy smoke. At a recent fire caused by a powerline failure I was fortunate to be in an area with Mobile coverage when our radios were down so had backup to direct resources to the area. In the case of an accident or other emergency this might be a life saving asset.

Mt Herring has an existing tower, power and a fibre optic cable to Condobolin. This sight would compliment the tower at Tullamore about 70 km NE of Mt Herring and possibly another existing tower at Yellow Mountain about 70 km to the NW of Condobolin. Due to the range of hills to the North of Condobolin and the range that Mt Herring forms part of there is no other practical site likely to give coverage to this very large area. I hope that something may be done to improve our situation,

Captain
John McDonald
Mogandale Bushfire Brigade