

# 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: Gary Nairn

Name of organisation:

Phone:

Email:

Website (if applicable):

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> 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? 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.

# The Hon. Gary Nairn

Bachelor of Surveying (UNSW)  
Hon. Fellow Institution of Surveyors, Australia  
Hon. Fellow Spatial Sciences Institute of Australia  
Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors



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

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Mobile Phone Coverage in Numeralla, Old Adaminaby/Anglers Reach NSW**

I write to highlight the non-existence of mobile coverage in the Numeralla region and the poor coverage in the Old Adaminaby/Anglers Reach region.

With respect to Numeralla, we own a property at [REDACTED] Numeralla which is approximately 8km south of the Numeralla village. Our mobile phones are with Telstra and we have no useable coverage anywhere on our property (approximately 55ha). Very occasionally an “opportune” text may arrive or be sent from the highest point on the property but making or receiving a call is impossible. I don’t believe there is coverage via any other provider.

The lack of mobile coverage was of particular concern in January 2013 during the nearby Yarrabin bushfire. This fire came within a few kilometres of our property and considering ABC radio coverage is also extremely poor in this region, our isolation during such events was very nerveing.

Having chaired the House of Representatives Select Committee that inquired into “The Recent Australian Bushfires” in 2003, I well remember the evidence from people with regards their experiences during those fires that devastated the ACT, NSW & Victoria as well as serious fires in Tasmania & WA during that summer. The importance of mobile phone and radio coverage was emphasised time and time again by both those that had it and those that didn’t.

The broader region of the Monaro that Numeralla sits within is an area very susceptible to bushfires. Part of this region was devastated during the 2003 fires and I understand there have been many fires in this broader region on a regular basis.

I also own a property at [REDACTED] Old Adaminaby. Mobile phone coverage came to that area in the early 2000’s which was of huge assistance, however due to the nature of the landscape, the one Telstra tower, situated between Adaminaby and Old Adaminaby, does not provide good coverage across the region. It should also be pointed out that Lake Eucumbene is a major drawcard in this region with

## The Hon. Gary Nairn

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fishers visiting in large numbers. Lake Eucumbene can be very dangerous, particularly as the weather can change unexpectedly, and therefore mobile phone coverage is vital for safety.

I understand that there will be substantial competition for the funds that are available for this programme. However, I would strongly urge consideration of the regions outlined above given the lack of current coverage and the history of bushfires. Coverage should always be extended first for safety reasons.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be pleased to provide any further information if required.

Yours Sincerely



GARY NAIRN