

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: Margaret Grunsell

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Date: 23 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? 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.

24 February 2014

The Manager
Mobile Coverage Programme
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CANBERRA ACT 2615

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PO Box 2547
NORTH IPSWICH QLD 4305

Dear Sir

RE: Mobile Coverage Programme Submission

Regional Development Australia - Ipswich and West Moreton ("RDA-I&WM") would like to commend the Federal Government on the development of the Mobile Coverage Programme. Enhanced coverage, competition and capacity of the current mobile networks within the RDA-I&WM region is an essential requirement to achieve the regions digital vision of Ipswich and West Moreton as a connected and productive region.

Ubiquitous mobile connectivity is driving change to the way we work, the way we communicate with customers and the way we solve old problems faster than any other technology ever – it will lead to more efficient business models and improved lifestyles for individuals and society.

As wireless capabilities become increasingly integrated within computer chips, the benefits of the computing world – innovation, short development cycles and low cost – are extending into mobile communications. As a result, traditionally unconnected devices are becoming connected – varying from smartphones, to cars and industrial machinery to farmland equipment. Increasingly the geo-spatial data that can be associated with a mobile device will drive changing business models in many sectors.

Ubiquitous mobile connectivity is becoming increasingly important in tourism, hospitality, agribusiness and education.

The Ipswich and West Moreton region is aiming to understand this global mobility trend and build appropriate infrastructures and applications to support and augment mobility to achieve optimal benefits over the next decade.

In relation to the Discussion Paper, RDA-I&WM would like to make the following comments:

- For all areas where Programme funds are being utilised for new base stations, except for extremely remote areas, 4G LTE and 3G mobile voice and broadband as a minimum quality standard should be applied;
- RDA-I&WM support the objective of mandatory local input to the 'list' of base station locations. The Commonwealth should provide an open mechanism to capture input to this list before the Programme is opened for application submissions;



- RDA-I&WM believe any utilisation of Public Funds should drive increased competition as well as coverage outcomes. Success should not be measured solely by 'new' square kilometre voice signal coverage increase but also take into account the exploding rate of data usage requirements. In essence the delivery of both data and voice is essential;
- RDA-I&WM believe that the definition of 'black spots' should also include areas where there is low signal strength coverage but also a low level of user experience relating to data transmission performance resulting in near unusable data;
- RDA-I&WM support the use of all applicable NBN Co fixed wireless, satellite, fibre and transit network infrastructure as an absolutely essential element to achieve optimal programme success;
- RDA-I&WM suggest that provisions for local community input, competition outcomes and network capacity improvement are included in the Programme assessment criteria; and
- RDA-I&WM support both Option 2 and 3 as the preferred delivery mechanism with either option to be applied based on specific outcomes to achieve increased coverage, competition and choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this important initiative. If the Department wishes to discuss any of these matters further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Margaret Grunsell
Executive Officer

Regional Development Australia - Ipswich & West Moreton Inc.