

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:	Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Website (if applicable):	-
Date:	27 th 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):

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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

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 Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (Inc)

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27th February 2014

The Manager
Mobile coverage programme
Department of communications
GPO Box 2154
Canberra ACT 2615

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission: Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper

The Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils represents the Shires of Manjimup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Nannup.

The total area represented is 11,672 m², with a total population of around 15,900 people. The region is the highest producer of agricultural product in Western Australia, with a diverse range of produce grown. The region also continues to support a native and plantation timber industry, which contributed \$73m to the economy in 2011-12. High volumes of softwood chips are exported through the Bunbury Port. The Region's proximity to Bunbury makes the region an attractive place for both families and retirees. The region has a large areas of State forest and National Parks and areas of the Region have been declared 'fire prone' and therefore at greater risk of a natural disaster. Recent fires in the region highlighted the lack of adequate communication systems and the risk that poses to residents and emergency services personnel.

The State Government launched the 'Regional Mobile Communication Project' in 2010, which each Shire has submitted a list of areas where Mobile phone coverage is poor or non-existent. To date this funding has focused on improving highway and town-to-town coverage in regional, rural and remote communities of the State. It includes the expansion of terrestrial mobile, and voice and high speed wireless data broadband. The next phase of this program will further focus on remote communities and blackspot areas.

Recently the Southwest Development Commission and Regional Development Australia compiled the South West Regional Blueprint, which highlights the need for further investment in Mobile Phone coverage and access to the Internet, with adequate connection speeds.

The Alliance therefore supports option 1 in the discussion paper, which allows the continued input from local government and further supports the funding proposed in the 'Mobile coverage Programme Discussion Paper' to be managed through the State Governments 'Regional Mobile Communications Project', which will allow a leveraging of funds, greater value for the nation and a better outcome for areas of need in Western Australia.

Please find attached a table outlining the 'Mobile Blackspot' areas in each of the Shire's.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Dean', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tony Dean
President

Manjimup

Priority	Area	Locality	Primary Road	Specific area	Comment
1	North Walpole	North Walpole	North Walpole Road	Mt Frankland	Residents, tourists, forest management, hikers / bikers
2	West Manjimup	Glenoran	Graphite Road	Near Jones Road intersection	Residents, travel route, forest management, hikers / bikers
3	West Pemberton	Beedelup / Channybearup	Vasse Highway	Near Karri Valley resort	Residents, travel route, tourists and forest management
4	Coastal	Windy Harbour	Windy Harbour Road	Near lighthouse	Residents, tourists, fishermen, forest management
5	West Manjimup	Deanmill / Jardee	Seven Day Road	Near Bottomley Road intersection	Residents, horticulture, tourists, forest management
6	East Manjimup	Dingup / Upper Warren / Lake Muir	Muir Highway	Near Nyamup	Residents, travel route, forest management
7	East Manjimup	Perup / Mordalup	Perup Road	Near Yerramin tower	Residents, travel route, forest management

Bridgetown-Greenbushes

Priority	Location	Location Details	Shire	Comment
1	Maranup	West and south-west of Greenbushes	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	This site is particularly important for emergency services communications as there is a long history of significant fires in this area
2	Winnejup	East of Bridgetown, vicinity of Winnejup Road and Jayes Road	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Mobile phone coverage exists on Bridgetown-Boyup Brook Road but ends once you turn off that road. Winnejup Road and Jayes Road are recognised regional roads with Winnejup Road being a route to Cranbrook and Mount Barker and Jayes Road a route to Kojonup.
3	West Bridgetown	Brockman Highway between Bridgetown and Nannup	Bridgetown-Greenbushes/Nannup	It is recognised that significant areas of State Forest will restrict coverage. A tower towards the Bridgetown end of Brockman Highway would improve coverage to areas west of Bridgetown.
4	Catterick	Between Greenbushes and Boyup Brook	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	A tower in the vicinity of Greenbushes-Boyup Brook Road would offer significant coverage of this area.
5.	Glenlyn/Yornup	South Western Highway between Bridgetown and Palgarup	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	New tower at Yornup has not provided any significant improvements to coverage along the highway.

Nannup

No	Location	Location Details	Shire	Shire Priority (High, Medium, Low)	Comment
1	Barrabup	Vasse Hwy - Busselton to Nannup	Nannup	High 3rd	Bushfire prone area. Will cover eastern section of Mowen Road which will be a major tourist and commercial link Provides coverage to regional trails network Nannup's recreational zone Emergency Management/ 3 fires recently Outside of the townsite is Nannup's major population base Future subdivisional potential Accommodation providers.
2	Jalbarragup	Brockman Hwy - Nannup to Karridale	Nannup	High 1st	Bushfire prone area. Limited access and egress in emergencies River recreational area Infrastructure in place to minimise cost of tower Isolated community Emergency Management Other EM agencies have highlighted issues
3	Jangardup	South Coastal	Nannup	High 4th	Coastal area.
4	Mowen Road East	South West	Nannup	Med	Low traffic and possible bushfire area.
5	Nannup East	Bridgetown to Nannup Road	Nannup	High 2nd	Bushfire prone area with local and tourist traffic usage. Infrastructure in place to minimise cost of tower Poorly sited original town tower does not provide good coverage for CBD Trail network coverage

					Will include East Nannup with coverage Light industrial area will be covered, currently poor
6	Rosa Glen	South West Coastal	Margaret River	Med	Tourism destination.
7	Stallard Road Intersection	Bridgetown to Nannup Road	Nannup	High 5th	Bushfire prone area with local and tourist traffic usage.
8	Stewart Road West	Brockman Highway - Nannup to Karridale	Nannup	Med	Local and tourist traffic usage.
9	Strickland Road	Vasse Highway - Nannup to Pemberton	Nannup	Med	Bushfire prone area with local and tourist traffic usage.
10	Sues Road South	Sues Road - Vasse to Brockman Highway	Nannup	Med	Local and tourist traffic usage.