

# 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:** Daryl Driscoll

**Name of organisation:** Warrenmang Fire Brigade

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**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Website (if applicable):**

**Date:** 27<sup>th</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? **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](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.



Warrenmang Fire Brigade,  
C/- Daryl Driscoll,



## **Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper Submission**

On behalf of the members of the Warrenmang Fire Brigade I would like to emphasise the importance of decent Mobile phone and data coverage when it comes to community safety and implementing fire fighting strategies.

It is essential that life-saving information be able to be received and sent instantly from the fire front. Sometimes the CFA radio traffic becomes too congested and we actually need to use mobile phones to communicate with headquarters and other brigades.

The recent lightning strikes and subsequent two large fires which threatened the Moonambel area highlighted the need for mobile coverage. Even the families of the local volunteers could not ring their loved ones to find out if they were ok and the volunteers could not let others know that they were in direct danger.

People are more and more relying on the CFA Fire Ready App on their mobiles and of course would not receive the life-saving warnings and advice when living or staying in the Moonambel area. This area is frequented by many tourists who are not aware of the complete lack of Mobile coverage and often complain to the local business owners that their mobiles will not get any service to even get a text message or fire app notification.

As you would be aware Moonambel and Warrenmang areas are one of the worst affected areas for poor mobile coverage. This is even pointed out when you go to purchase a new mobile phone and tell them you are from Moonambel. The people of Moonambel and Warrenmang also have no access to broadband internet and have to rely on mobile internet which drops in and out.

We would dearly love to see some action taken to address this terrible coverage area as soon as possible as more and more people are relying on the internet and mobile coverage.

Yours sincerely,

Daryl Driscoll,  
Captain,  
Warrenmang Fire Brigade.