

COORABIE & DISTRICTS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Mobile Black Spot Program Round 5

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Coorabie and Districts Progress Association regarding the lack of mobile phone reception in the Coorabie / Fowlers Bay / Nundroo area on the Far West Coast of South Australia.

I understand that the Government is seeking input on the design of Round 5A of the Mobile Black Spot Program to fund telecommunications infrastructure to deliver new and improved coverage in regional and remote Australia and has "proposed a second component of Round 5A to reserve funding and potentially offer higher levels of funding to solutions that deliver services to low population areas." I also understand "Round 1 and 2 of the MBSP reserved funding and awarded points to solutions that addressed coverage issues in remote and very remote areas, which they say worked well, so it is proposed that Round 5A would use the same approach when identifying remote and very remote areas to be targeted." Also major regional and remote transport corridors are a massive concern and the Government has said "it is proposed that a third component of Round 5A will reserve funding to target coverage along major regional and remote transport corridors, including to communities along these corridors. Many coverage issues along these corridors have not been addressed under earlier rounds of the MBSP."

We realise that Base Stations are now going to be erected at Nundroo & Fowlers Bay from Round 5 funding. Our concern is they only have a 2-3 kilometre range which will be of no benefit to our farming and business community in Coorabie as we are 18 kms from Fowlers Bay and 15 kms from Nundroo. At the moment the only major mobile coverage is at Penong which is 75 kms to the east of us and at the Yalata Aboriginal Community which is 60 kms to the west of us.

This major black spot around our district makes it very difficult to run a business efficiently and communicate in times of need. For this reason most businesses and farmers in the area have installed Telstra smart antenna repeaters at a cost to each individual business of between \$2000 and \$6000. These are stationary repeaters and only transmit the signal for approximately 15 metres around our houses and as the signal is very weak there are still drop outs and the data speeds are extremely slow.

A mobile phone tower in our community is a necessity to locals and the Eyre Highway users alike, especially the National Transport Companies using the only major transport route from the Eastern States to Western Australia, as it will provide a safety net that will give faster assistance to people in need and also for the Emergency Services, RAA and CFS services attending them. This can be the difference between life and death. Already

there have been several cases in our community where emergency assistance has been delayed because of no mobile signal. In the past year alone, we have had to respond to people who have needed help and because of no mobile service they have activated their EPIRB's to receive assistance.

In this day and age mobile phone signal and data is needed to successfully run any type of business. Farming and fishing industries are heavily reliant on technology these days and better connectivity to the internet will make businesses more productive which will help grow our economy and support regional jobs. Tourism now days relies almost entirely on being able to have access to the internet to search and book accommodation. They also rely on mobile coverage as this is their only form of communication when travelling, fishing, boating, whale watching or just sight seeing in our area. There are 3 Caravan Parks and Accommodation businesses in our small district that cater for these people. The trucking industry using the only major transport route from the Eastern States to Western Australia, along with the continuous flow of mining vehicles from our local mineral sands mine would also benefit from having mobile coverage for security and safety issues. The local garage which is also the RAA service right through to the Western Australian Border relies heavily on mobile communication to pick up people stranded along the highway with vehicle break downs and accidents. The Country Fire Service (CFS) is another community service who needs mobile coverage around the district and along the Eyre Highway when emergencies occur especially in the bushfire season. The Yalata Aboriginal Community have numerous contractors/employees that travel the Eyre Highway and the Coorabie/Fowlers Bay Roads continuously, they would benefit greatly with mobile coverage also for safety reasons.

As this program is supported by co-contributions from state and local governments, mobile network operators ([Optus](#), [Telstra](#) and [Vodafone](#)), businesses and local communities, our community would be prepared to assist with a monetary contribution to help establish a mobile tower in our district that would benefit everyone. We are asking for your help to bring our small outback community into line with most others on the Eyre Highway and beyond.

I am also attaching a map of our area with a possible location where a mobile tower could go. This map is based on a radius of 30 kms. The Telstra Exchange at Coorabie, which has mains power is the most central site as that would cover the Eyre Highway for the trucks and travellers and the Coorabie Area where we all live.

Look forward to receiving a reply from you soon.

Yours Faithfully



Deb Kloock

Secretary/Treasurer of the Coorabie and Districts Progress Association Inc.



Imagery ©2018 TerraMetrics, Map data ©2018 Google 10 km

Measure distance
 Total distance: 30.02 km (18.65 mi) Radius

Coorabie (TelstraExchange)