



Councils Ref: CB/KA/JB:566442

7 May 2020

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: MBSPRound5@communications.gov.au
Copy to: Barnaby.Joyce.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission regarding Mobile Black Spot Program Round 5A - Discussion Paper

Glen Innes Severn Council appreciates the Australian Government's commitment to communication in rural and regional areas. We have reviewed the current position paper regarding Round 5A of the Mobile Blackspot Program and fully support the principles that have been stated in that document.

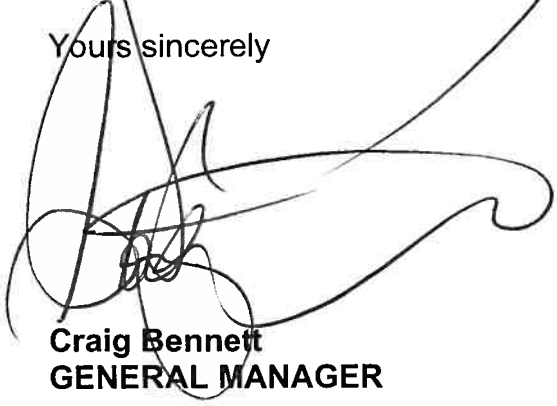
In particular, Council supports the following principles outlined in the discussion paper for the design of Round 5A of the Mobile Blackspot Program:

1. That priority be given to areas impacted by natural disaster. The Wyaliba area and beyond to Newton Boyd was significantly impacted by the lack of mobile phone coverage during recent bushfire and flood events that also restricted physical access to residents for an extended period.
2. That priority be given to freight transport routes. The Gwydir and New England Highways form key transport routes within the local government area and contribute significantly to the national freight task. These corridors must have full mobile coverage for their entire length.
3. That priority be given to projects that provide for multiple network operators.

There are no aspects of the paper that are not supported, and Council looks forward to the successful implementation and construction of new base stations that achieve the needs identified above within the Glen Innes Severn local government area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Bennett', is written over the 'Yours sincerely' text and extends upwards into the first paragraph.

Craig Bennett
GENERAL MANAGER