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Mobile Black Spot Program Round 5
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To whom it may concern

Mobile Black Spot Program – Round 5A submission

The principles identified in the 'Mobile Black Spot Program – Round 5A – Discussion paper' strongly align with Lismore City Council's Community Strategic Plan and reflects the needs of our community. Lismore City Council therefore offers its support to the proposed Key Design Principles of the Round 5A. Importantly the principles seek to support improved coverage for non-commercial regional and remote areas that can be significantly affected by natural disasters. The Mobile Black Spot Program will provide mobile connectivity improvements to regional communities such as Nimbin, Blue Knob and Tunttable Creek that have been significantly impacted by natural bushfire disasters in 2019-20.

The Lismore Local Government community highlighted the important role improved connectivity played in supporting rural business centre connectivity during recent community consultation for the 'Economic Development Strategy 2019-2024'. Our community highlighted the need for reliable mobile service and connectivity to support business continuity and sustained connectivity.

During the bushfires of 2019-2020, the Nimbin business community experienced significant mobile service interruptions, inhibiting trade and contact with the broader community. Nimbin as the central rural business centre, with a population of approximately 2,350 plays an integral role in supporting our rural communities during natural disasters. During this most recent natural disaster, this community came close to losing mobile tower network infrastructure that would have detrimentally impacted our community and the ability of emergency services to communicate effectively during the peak of the bushfire. This program will play an important role for communities like Nimbin to improve coverage in regional and remote settings.

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Yours faithfully

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