Moira Shire Council Mobile Blackspot Program 5A Discussion Paper Submission

The discussion paper proposes that Round 5A will divide the available funding into three components, addressing the following three priority areas:

a. high priority natural disaster prone areas including those affected or prone to bushfire
b. new technology solutions in areas where low population densities have discouraged applications under earlier rounds
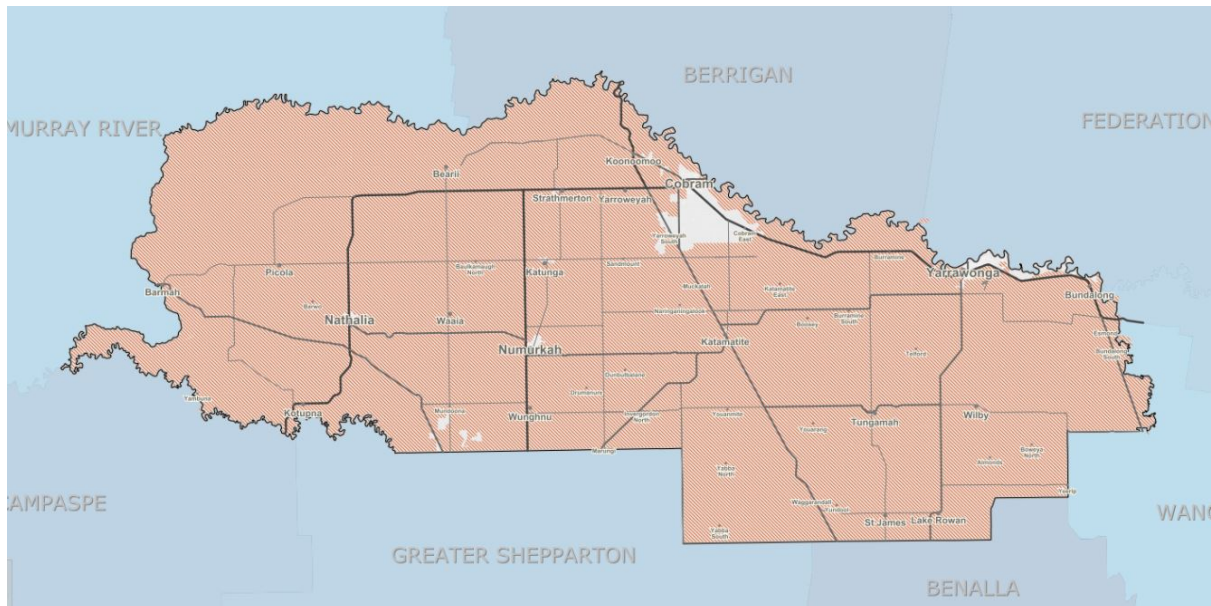c. major regional and remote transport corridors.

Question 1: Are there any comments on the coverage areas proposed to be targeted?

Response: The three priority areas are agreed, however they are still very broad. They can be refined by adding:

*   to "priority a": *"high priority natural disaster prone areas including those affected or prone to bushfire, __floods or severe weather events."__*
*   a new "priority d" stating that: a higher weighting will be given to locations meeting priorities a, b or c that:
    *   experience significant holiday and/or seasonal working population changes
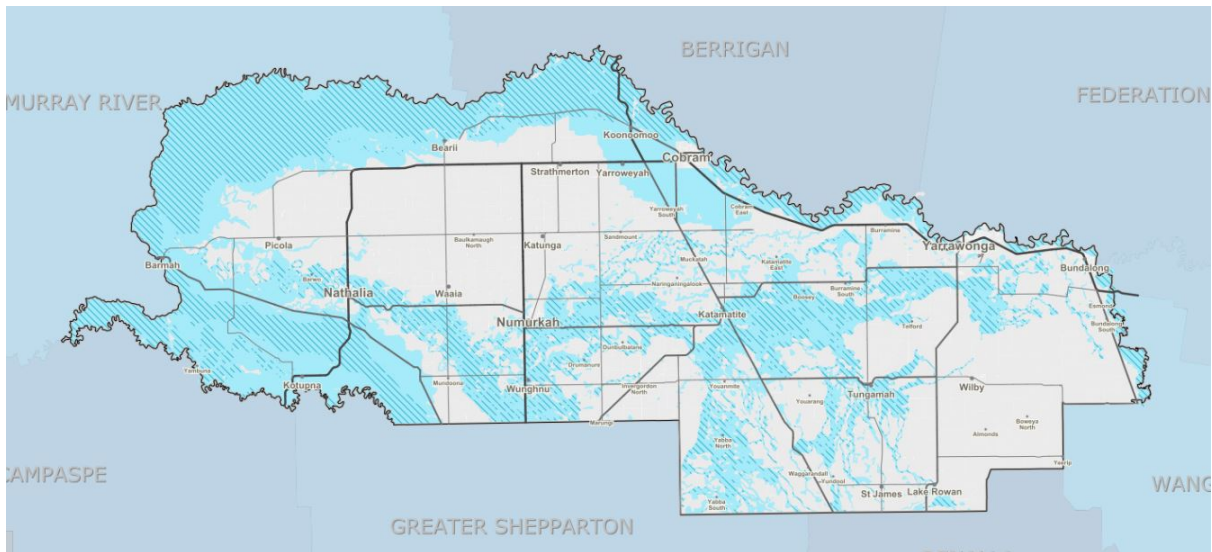   *   have a greater and/or increasing dependency on telehealth services

Moira Shire is located approximately 2.5 hours north of Melbourne. The following images of Moira Shire are provided to support the above comments. As can be seen from the following diagrams, most of the Shire is subject to both Bushfire and Flood overlays. Other municipalities may be in similar situations, consequently there is a need to refine these priorities.

Moira Shire Bushfire Overlay – shaded area

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Moira Shire Flood Overlay - shaded area

The shire has very popular holiday areas, particularly along the Murray, which are susceptible to fires and floods. It is particularly important to ensure emergency messaging can reach people in these areas, many of whom will be unfamiliar with the area and how to exit and relocate to appropriate relief areas. Further to this, mobile apps such as the CovidSafe app, is rendered ineffective in these locations.

Question 2 Are there any comments on the types of proposals that would be eligible for funding, including the required coverage outcomes?

Response:

4G solutions should be the minimum standard.

Provision of transportable mobile towers should be made available to regions in which major events are held. These mobile towers could then be deployed in emergency situations, when the fixed towers have been damaged.