

Dear Round 5A of the MBSP committee members.

There is a large Mobile Phone and Internet Data 'Black spot' located North West of Jerilderie NSW driving towards Hay NSW in the Murrumbidgee Council area.

The best location for a mobile phone tower would be on the Bowmanville section of "Woodside" Station 30km North West of Jerilderie on the north side of the Yanko Creek in the vicinity of the Wilson Road and the Moonbria Lane intersection. This location provides all weather Wilson road access, a sand hill to provide additional height for the tower and it has a power line on the sand hill. Solar Panels and battery backup could provide redundancy if there was a blackout during an emergency. The tower would provide Mobile phone and Data coverage to the Homesteads located on the Yanko Creek, west along the Monbria Lane to the Conargo – Carrathool Road, North to the Mabins Well Telephone Exchange and East to the Kidman Way.

This is a low population area due to the large size of the livestock breeding properties and the lack of townships and infrastructure along this route. However it is an important livestock and wool growing area and requires hand held mobile phone and internet communications to the property managers and employees working alone mustering and checking stock on motorbikes or repairing fences or windmills etc well away from their homes and base stations. Safety is a major consideration especially in an emergency and life threatening situation and hand held mobile phone signal is vital to providing that safety.

The area of the Jerilderie to Hay 'black spot' is a well known major wool and beef domestic and export producing district in the Riverina.

The 'black spot' area had a major bushfire on the 16 Jan 1987 which burnt over 300,000 acres on 26 properties over three Shire Council boundaries. The area is prone to summer storms and lightning strikes starting bushfires every year which need constant vigilance and mobile phone coverage to assist with spotting, mobilising resources and controlling.

The Yanko Creek, Delta Creek, Turn Back Jimmy Creek and the many unnamed watercourses which crisscross the black spot area are subject to flooding in wetter than average seasons. Bogging of vehicles from tractors and farm machinery, Council vehicles, agents, power and phone service providers, transport operators and emergency vehicles is not uncommon in isolated areas of the 'black spot' and reliance on mobile phone signal to call for help is essential and time saving when working alone.

If you would like further information or wish to contact me, my phone number (if there is service) is [personal information removed].

Regards,

Kel Robertson



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SC29

2 June 2020

Mr K Robertson
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JERILDERIE NSW 2716

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Dear Kelvin

Thank you for your recent letter seeking Council's support for your submission under the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

This is not the first time the matter of poor to non-existent mobile phone coverage in the area north west of Jerilderie and along segments of the Kidman Way has been drawn to the attention of Federal and State Members and logged on the Federal Government data base under the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

This issue is of significant concern to Council, and causes angst to ratepayers and residents within the area. Reliable reception would provide a level of security for those who live, work and travel in this region, some areas of which are sparsely populated. Being a rural area, there are more occasions than not when people are working alone, often at great distance from home. A mobile phone signal is vital for the protection of these workers.

It would also offer an additional level of safety for emergency service personnel who may be called into the region during bush fire season.

The current lack of mobile phone coverage puts in jeopardy the lives of many, and Murrumbidgee Council fully supports your submission seeking an improvement in mobile phone and data coverage within our region.

Yours faithfully

John Scarce
GENERAL MANAGER