

ST JAMES HALL COMMITTEE

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Sub Committee: Community Task Coordinators for Moira Shire

Communications. Government
5a Black Spot Program
Submission

To whom it may concern

I may not be the best at putting in a submission for Black Spot Funding, however I know very well the problems we have regarding this issue in our town of St James Victoria 3727

We have a population of 187 people, ranging from school children to retirees. The children are bussed to school to either Tungamah for State School or to Benalla for Secondary education. We are primarily a farming community and depend on telecommunications for our livelihood.

It is regarding problems with reception that I am writing. I live 16 kilometers from the town and I have great reception, however in the township itself, our phones are constantly dropping out or just plain won't work.

- We run many functions in our public hall and if someone had an accident or a heart turn, someone would have to go out on the main road and run around like a chook with it's head off trying to find the sweet spot where they can actually ring 000 for help.
- You may receive a text in the Hall but be unable to answer it due to lack of reception. Same thing, run out on the road and try to find that exact spot, which by the way, is not the same spot every day.
- Some of our Community Group want to learn how to operate a computer, but again lack of reception has prevented that from happening.
- We are on The North-East Art Trail and have a lot to offer Tourism but visitors complain about the lack of reception.

Yes there are spots where reception is better, but with an aging community we need the modern telecommunications that every citizen is entitled to. In this day and age it is not a luxury but a necessity.

I am writing on behalf of the St James Hall Committee, The St James Community Task Coordinators for the Moira Shire, The St James Gun Club, the St James Golf Club and the St James Bowls Club.

Kathy Beattie
St James Community