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Office of the Mayor

16 June 2020

File Ref: LOS  
Your Ref:

Mobile Black Spot Program  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

[MBSPRound5@communications.gov.au](mailto:MBSPRound5@communications.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

***PUBLIC LETTER OF SUPPORT – DANBULLA MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROJECT – ROUND 5A  
MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROGRAM***

The Danbulla community is located in a central position in the Atherton Tablelands and is well connected with our principal towns. However, due to the undulating terrain and specific geography, it is largely devoid of mobile coverage. This creates significant problems for the community, ranging from safety to social integration and economic development. Our region is home to many residents who are running online businesses or working from home, and the need for adequate digital infrastructure is substantiated in Council's Economic Development Strategy.

I wish to acknowledge Telstra's cooperation, community engagement and substantial efforts to date in attempting to address this important issue. However, in order to proceed with the installation of the necessary mobile base station it is imperative that funding is provided via the Australian Government's Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP).

During recent discussions with Telstra and the local community Council was advised of some of the requirements and conditions applicable to the MBSP, and in particular of the condition of making all base stations 3G compatible. Given the near obsolescence of the 3G network, this appears to be almost a requirement for back-compatibility which appears to be of no importance for the local community. I understand that as part of Round 5A of the MBSP the Federal Government is seeking feedback concerning the need for 3G or combined 3G/4G facilities.

Council believes that, given that the 3G network is due to be retired in just a few years, the net present value of any investment made now in 3G technology will be negative making that investment unattractive to the network operators. Furthermore we are informed that the current 3G spectrum is likely to be recycled for the upcoming 5G network.

Council would like to support the building of 4G-only base stations rather than combined 3G/4G ones, as these will be much more attractive and affordable for network operators and will fully meet the stated needs of the local community. I believe this will ensure an effective mobile phone service for the Danbulla community and create the prerequisites for a seamless move to 5G mobile phone technology in the future.

**PUBLIC LETTER OF SUPPORT – DANBULLA MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROJECT – ROUND 5A MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROGRAM**

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Please find attached correspondence received from a group of Danbulla residents regarding this matter.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Tudor Tanase, Manager Planning and Regulatory Services.

Yours faithfully



**CR ROD MARTI  
MAYOR**

Enclosed: Email from residents

**Amanda Loudon**

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**From:** Bronwyn <bronnie.stewart@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 1 June 2020 7:16 AM  
**To:** Tudor Tanase; Rod Marti; Councillor David Clifton; David Blake  
**Subject:** Support for Danbulla Mobile Tower under MBSP funding rounds

As discussed previously with Councillors and yourself, the need for towers to alleviate the mobile service black spot areas in our Danbulla community area is constantly in the thoughts of our residents and we appreciate Council's support in trying to achieve that outcome for the community.

We understand that as part of Round 5A of the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) the Federal Government is seeking feedback concerning the need for 4G-only base-stations over combined 3G/4G facilities, and that the TRC plan to make a submission to this consultation process.

Given that the 3G network is due to be retired in just a few years, the net present value of any investment made now in 3G technology will be negative making that investment unattractive to the network operators.

Therefore on behalf of many of the residents and ratepayers in the Danbulla area, we urge Council, as part of their submission, to support the need to build these 4G-only facilities rather than the combined 3G/4G variety as we believe that this will be more attractive to the network operators and therefore increase the chances of a successful outcomes in our area.

It is our hope that a tower will come to the Danbulla community and obviously a 4G tower would ensure that our mobile phone service could efficiently move forward with the rapidly changing world of mobile phone technology to 5G when that occurs.

We would appreciate your consideration of supporting 4G-only facilities for any new applications under the MBS Program.

This letter of support is offered by the following residents of the Danbulla community.

Bronwyn Stewart and Mark Gerard – Adams Road

Jana Mueller and Diane Daniels – Adams Road

Geoff and Maggie Beare – Adams Road

Alice and Don Nurthen – Adams Road

Stuart and Amanda Howe – Adams Road

Kate and Andrew Drysdale – Adams Road

David and Barbara Blake – Marshall Road

Mark and Lucy Morris – Eastern Connection

Dale and Elisabeth Mowatt – Eastern Connection

Brad and Sasha Snow – Eastern Connection

Yours sincerely

Bronwyn Stewart