



The Hon Mark Coulton MP
Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government
Federal Member for Parkes
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Email: MBSRound5@communications.gov.au

TFGA Submission: Commonwealth Government Mobile Blackspot Program

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. TFGA members are responsible for generating approximately 80% of the value created by the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

Agriculture is one of the key pillars of the economy and, with the current level of support from government, are well positioned to further capitalise on the stature of Tasmania agriculture.

The TFGA appreciates the opportunity to make comment on the Commonwealth Government Mobile Blackspot Program.

The TFGA has consulted extensively with our members and have received substantial feedback on areas of Tasmania that are still experiencing mobile blackspots. Tasmania, as a State, is deemed as a regional area and has very high threats of both bushfire and flood events year-round. For example, in the 2016, once in a hundred-year flood event occurred and the Dunalley bushfires, and then in 2018/19 state-wide bushfires. Unfortunately, Tasmania is at great risk of these natural disaster events occurring on a regular basis.

As we have found in the above events, not having appropriate mobile coverage is life threatening to the community, volunteers and emergency services where communication is non-existent and hampers emergency service assistance where needed most. As an example of this, in the 2018/19 bushfires there was no mobile coverage in the Bothwell to Waddamana and surrounding area and the local community used their own resources, and camped out in the bush for numerous days and nights, to fight the fires that threatened their properties and the local power station. They had no way of requesting assistance due to the blackspot in that region. They put their own lives at risk to help their community and minimise fire damage to enable their neighbours, fellow landowners and friends to survive the devastation.

The areas that we have identified that are still experiencing mobile black spots in Tasmania are detailed in the below table. This by no means is limited to these areas only

Region in Tasmania	Suburb/Street/Road	Postcode
Southern Tasmania		
Midlands, South	Inglewood Road, Andover	7120
Midlands, South	Kempton	7030
Midlands, South	Jericho	7030
Midlands, South	Constitution Hill	7120
Midlands, South	Stonor Road, Stonor	7119
Midlands, South	Lower Marshes Road, Apsley	7030
Midland, South	Mud Walls Road, Colebrook	7027
Midlands, South	North of Bothwell, Cluny	7030
Midlands, South	North of Cluny, Waddamana	7030
Midlands, South	South of Bothwell, Den Hill	7030
Midlands, South	Highland Lakes Road, Bothwell	7030
Midlands, South	Tunbridge	7120
Midlands, South	Antill Ponds	7120
Midlands, South	York Plains	7120
Midlands, South	Oatlands	7120
Midlands, South	Parattah	7120
Midlands, South	Andover	7120
Midlands, South	Woodsdale	7120
Midlands, South	Levendale	7120
Midlands, South	Hamilton	7140
Midlands, South	Gretna	7140
Channel area	Sandfly	7150
Channel area	Allens Rivulet	7150
North East Tasmania		
South West of Launceston	Cressy	7302
South West of Launceston	Glen Road, Cressy	7302
South West of Launceston	Macquarie Settlement Road, Cressy	7302
North West Tasmania		
Top Gawler Road, south of Ulverstone	Gawler	7315
Black River	Circular Head	7321

Port Latta	Circular Head	7321
East of Latrobe	Harford	7307
East of Marrawah	Togari	7330
South East of Marrawah	Roger River	7330
East of Nietta	Wilmot	7310
King Island	Whole Island	7256
East of Kindred	Paloona	7310
Pegarah	King Island	7256
Near Cradle Mountain	Forth Valley	7310
Northern Tasmania		
Native Point	Between Perth and Evandale	7300 & 7212
Near Launceston Airport	Western Junction	7212
West of Mole Creek	Mayberry	7304
West of Launceston	Blackstone Heights	7250
South of Exeter	Bridgenorth	7277
East Coast Tasmania		
No data at this stage however this can be supplied upon request.		
West Coast Tasmania		
No data at this stage however this can be supplied upon request.		

In summary, it is very evident that Tasmania has a very real and urgent communication issue that is widespread and needs to be addressed for the safety of our members and the wider community.

Some of our members have provided us with feedback, which they are willing to allow communication networks to utilise access opportunities to their properties, if needed, in line with COVID-19 restrictions at the time, to assist with testing and problem-solving current blackspot issues. More information can be supplied if requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on mobile blackspots in Tasmania.

Please contact the TFGA if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Skillern
Chief Executive Officer
19th June 2020