

Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper

Submission Cover Sheet

Submission Information

This cover sheet should be attached to submissions made to the Department of Communications in relation to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.

Contact Details

Name of respondent:	Dr David Gillespie MP
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Date:	3/3/14

Confidentiality and privacy

All submissions and comments, or parts thereof, will be treated as non-confidential information unless specifically requested, and acceptable reasons should accompany each request. Email disclaimers will not be considered sufficient confidentiality requests.

Respondents lodging a submission should be aware that submissions (excluding any information agreed to be treated as confidential information) will be made publicly available, including on the Department of Communications' website. Submissions and comments will be subject to freedom of information provisions. Despite a submission being identified as confidential or sensitive, submissions may be disclosed where authorised or required by law, or for the purpose of parliamentary processes.

Do you want all or parts of the submission to be treated as confidential? **Yes** **No**

If yes, identify below which parts of the submission are to be treated as confidential (and provide a reason):

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If the submission contains personal information of any third party individual, indicate on this Submission Cover Sheet if that third party individual has not consented to the publication of his or her personal information:

Submission Instructions

Submissions are to be made by **5:00pm (AEST) Friday 28 February 2014**.

Where possible, submissions should be lodged electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats via the email address mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au

Alternatively, submissions can be sent to the postal address below (to arrive by the due date):

The Manager
Mobile Coverage Programme
Department of Communications
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2615

All submissions lodged will be acknowledged by the Department of Communications by email (or by letter if no email is provided). Respondents lodging a submission who do not receive acknowledgement of their submission should contact the Department. Submissions which are not acknowledged by the Department as being received may not be considered. Respondents should be aware that emails greater than 10Mb may not be successfully delivered.

The Manager
Mobile Coverage Programme
Department of Communications
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2615

By email: mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au

SUBMISSION

RE: \$100 million regional mobile coverage programme

I would like consideration to be given to the following areas within the Lyne electorate that are the subject of long-standing and numerous requests and complaints from constituents regarding the poor to non-existing mobile coverage.

Deficient coverage areas are:

1. Yarras Mountain servicing: the Oxley Highway and the surrounding communities of Yarras, Mount Seaview, Ellenborough, Comboyne, Forbes River, Kindee
2. Comboyne servicing Ellenborough, Lorne, Byabarra, Kippax, Elands
3. Camden Haven, servicing: Laurieton, North Haven, Dunbogan, West Haven

The areas at best have just one MNO and as such do not provide any level of competition or comparison.

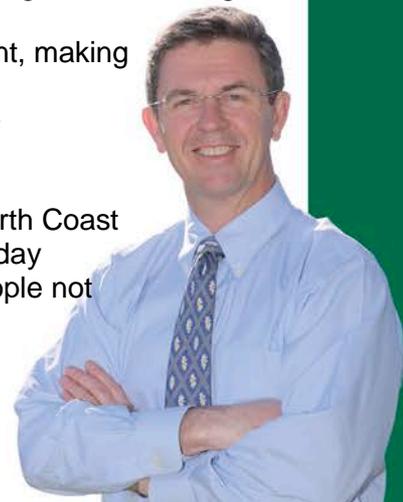
The Yarras Mountain region servicing the Oxley Highway has reception that is below average to non-existent. This area is significant as: -

- It is the main link between the inland New England/North West region (including the centres of Walcha, Armidale, and Tamworth) and the coastal regions (including the centres of Port Macquarie and Taree). The only other similar all-weather bitumen roads are several hours travel south and north.
- The large traffic volumes servicing personal and freight transport has increased in recent years to 536 Annual Average Daily Traffic (vehicles – passenger and freight) as of 2010.
- The Yarras Mountain area is an acknowledged gap for Emergency Services. There are a large number of motor vehicle accidents on the Oxley Highway, running at approximately one-per week. This is due to its steep and winding nature, inclement weather (often fog bound) and recognition as a scenic driving route
- The Oxley Highway services the coastal tourism industry as well as general industry between the major centres of Tamworth and Port Macquarie, but both operators and customers are unable to access basic communication services.
- There are a large number of students travelling to and from the Hastings and Armidale University's.

Positioning of a tower at Comboyne would greatly assist in removal many of the poor reception areas through-out the greater Comboyne Plateau, which is an intensive farming area with a high tourist visitation.

- Comboyne has an elevation of 705 metres and is a natural high point, making it ideal for tower location
- The plateau surrounding Comboyne covers several hundred square kilometres.

The Laurieton area, as well as being a residential growth area on the Mid North Coast is also a popular tourist destination all year round and especially in peak holiday periods. Mobile phone coverage in this area is generally poor, with many people not



David Gillespie MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE

receiving coverage in their homes or business at different times.

- The area has a resident population of near 10,000 people, which can increase by up to five-fold during peak holiday periods, with the transmission service reportedly failing to cope with demand
- The area has a higher than average aged community, making communication extra important between them and medical staff/emergency services.

Conclusion:

Mobile telephone towers at the recognised 'Black Spots' of Yarras Mountain, Comboyne and in the lower Camden Haven areas would significantly improve mobile phone reception issues and solve significant Emergency Service response gaps.

Dr David Gillespie
Federal Member for Lyne



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ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION

RE: \$100 million regional mobile coverage programme

I would like consideration to be given to the following additional area within the Lyne electorate that is also the subject of long-standing and numerous requests and complaints from constituents regarding the poor to non-existing mobile coverage. It is also one of NSW worst 'Black Spot' regions with **no** mobile coverage across a large area and important east west link between the coast and inland.

Deficient coverage areas are:

- North West of Gloucester and through to Nowendoc and taking in a great portion of the Barrington Tops.
- The RFS are putting in a new tower on Mount Myra within the Woko National Park. This is to replace an existing tower so that additional equipment can be added to the existing asset. Use of the current RFS tower or a joint shared arrangement on a new tower should be explored so that costs may be reduced.
- Daily traffic loads on the Thunderbolts Way and Walcha Road have increased dramatically in recent years as Tourists look to explore the wilderness areas of the Barrington Tops.

Conclusion:

A mobile telephone tower at the recognised 'Black Spot' North West of Gloucester would significantly improve mobile phone reception issues and solve significant Emergency Service response gaps.



Dr David Gillespie
Federal Member for Lyne

