



The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- 3 JUN 2014

Petition 841/1308 - Mobile phone coverage at Tatong, Molyullah, Lurg, and Samaria

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your recent letter concerning a petition submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions, regarding mobile phone coverage at Tatong, Molyullah, Lurg, and Samaria (841/1308).

The Australian Government recognises the importance of reliable mobile coverage to Australians. While mobile phone carriers claim to provide coverage to 99 per cent of Australia's population, there are still some areas that have no coverage, particularly in regional and remote locations.

Expanding mobile coverage has clear economic and social benefits, as well as public safety benefits for people living, working and travelling in regional and remote areas.

The Government is investing \$100 million to improve mobile phone coverage in some outer metropolitan, regional and remote communities which do not currently have reliable coverage. The Government's \$100 million investment is expected to generate at least matching funding from local and state governments, communities and industry.

The Mobile Black Spot Programme will improve coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and in locations prone to experiencing natural disasters, as well as addressing unique mobile coverage problems.

Further information on the Mobile Black Spot Programme is available on the Department of Communications' website (www.communications.gov.au/mobile_coverage).

I am pleased to advise that Tatong, Molyullah, Lurg, and Samaria are all areas that will be eligible for the programme. The information provided about mobile coverage in these areas has been added to the database we are building of areas reported to have poor coverage. This database will be shared with the mobile carriers and other interested players to assist them in preparing their proposals under this programme.

To ensure these communities are aware of the opportunities presented by the Mobile Black Spot Programme, I have tasked my Department to contact the petition organisers and provide any assistance that is necessary.

Thank you once again for bringing the communications concerns of smaller communities such as Tatong, Molyullah, Lurg and Samaria to my attention. I trust the information provided will assist.

Yours sincerely

 Malcolm Turnbull