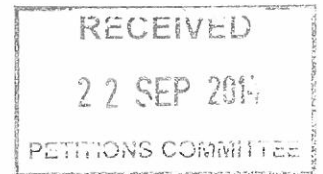




The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS



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

07 AUG 2014

## Petition 917/1383 – Mobile phone coverage at Sisters Beach

Dear ~~Dr Jensen~~

Thank you for your letter dated 23 June 2014 concerning a petition submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions, regarding mobile phone coverage at Sisters Beach (917/1383).

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](http://www.communications.gov.au/mobile_coverage)).

I am pleased to advise that Sisters Beach is an area that will be eligible for the programme. The information provided about mobile coverage at Sisters Beach 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 that the Sisters Beach community is 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 for bringing the petition to my attention and I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Turnbull