

**From:** [Ryan Ellis](#)  
**To:** [RMI](#)  
**Subject:** Regional mobile infrastructure inquiry  
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**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
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Good morning,

The online survey collecting information regarding the regional mobile infrastructure inquiry seemed to be more targeted at personal submissions so I thought it would be better to submit feedback via email on behalf of Mildura Rural City Council.

Mildura Rural City Council is, geographically, the largest municipality in Victoria and the telecommunications companies are slowly improving coverage and access to various technologies. All of the Victorian metropolitan councils would fit within the Mildura Rural City Council area. A greater geographical area means that residents and visitors are often travelling greater distances both within their jobs and personally. The lower population density also means that there is less commercial incentive for telecommunication companies to build infrastructure and offer services at similar price as metropolitan areas.

In the past, council has submitted information including mapping of areas of mobile phone coverage blackspots. The blackspot funding has been successful in part for the Mildura municipality in that it has resulted in greater mobile phone coverage but a problem of providers and available services still remain.

Blackspot funding seems to be targeted where there is no mobile coverage. If one telecommunication provider has coverage, then the area is not classified as a blackspot.

In many areas of our municipality, there is coverage from one telecommunications provider but not another. This would require a person to have a service with multiple carriers to ensure connectivity when travelling. In many areas, voice services are available but not data or 4G services rather than 5G. This too, varies between carriers.

If the mobile infrastructure inquiry could identify means of sharing infrastructure between carriers in affected regional areas, that would be a successful outcome for customers in regional areas both in terms of service availability, as well as commercially.

Regional customers would have access to products from an array of telecommunications providers, making the cost of services accessible also.

I am happy to discuss this further if required.  
Thanks,

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Mildura Rural City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, which now comprises the Mildura Rural City municipality. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate and respect their continuing cultures and acknowledge the memories of their ancestors.

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