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## Media Release

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# ACCAN Launches Updated Community Consultation Guide for Round 2 of the Mobile Black Spot Programme

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) has released the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of its *Community Consultation Guide* in time for Round 2 of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Programme (MBSP).

Mobile coverage is a key issue for consumers, particularly those who live in regional, rural, and remote areas. Improving mobile coverage is also one of ACCAN's key work priorities.

"ACCAN saw a need for a practical self-help toolkit for people to improve mobile coverage in their communities – so we developed the *Community Consultation Guide*," said ACCAN CEO Teresa Corbin.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the guide has been informed by the experiences of telcos and communities during Round 1, and also contains some useful case studies of how consumers and local councils worked with telcos to fix mobile black spots in their communities.

"In Glen Innes NSW the local community teamed up with Vodafone and an international wind power company to attach mobile antennas to its 90 metre tall wind turbines. The height meant they could cover a much wider area than normal antennas and they had a ready source of power on hand," said Ms Corbin.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the *Community Consultation Guide* helps communities to understand what telecommunications network providers and other organisations look for when weighing up where to invest. It sets out steps to identify poor coverage, how to measure the extent of the problem, and how to contact organisations who may be potential co-investors.

"Hopefully it goes even further in assisting rural, regional, and remote Australians to develop some really strong business cases for co-investment during Round 2," added Ms Corbin.

The competitive selection process for Round 2 of the MBSP has now commenced, meaning that telecommunications providers can bid for a share of \$60m of government funding to improve mobile coverage in identified black spots. Applications are due by 14 June 2016, and the locations that receive funding should be announced in the second half of the year.

The *Community Consultation Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* was developed in consultation with industry specialists, community groups, Telstra, Optus, and Vodafone. It can be downloaded on the ACCAN website [here](#).

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*The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) is Australia's peak communications consumer organisation. The operation of ACCAN is made possible by funding provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under section 593 of the Telecommunications Act 1997. This funding is recovered from charges on telecommunications carriers.*

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### **Additional information on black spots:**

10,692 mobile coverage black spots have been identified across 93 electorates and all states and territories of Australia. More information and data on the locations of identified black spots can be found on the Department of Communications and the Arts’ website [here](#).

<b>State / Territory</b>	<b>No. of Identified Black Spots</b>
External Territory	3
ACT	10
Tas	421
NT	470
SA	836
WA	1283
Qld	1790
Vic	2460
NSW	3419

<b>Remoteness Area</b>	<b>No. of identified black spots</b>
Major Cities of Australia	264
Inner Regional Australia	3751
Outer Regional Australia	4437
Remote Australia	1143
Very Remote Australia	1096
N/A*	1

\*Norfolk Island

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