

14 January 2016



Mobile Black Spot Programme
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au

**Grower-driven advocacy for
a profitable grains industry**

To whom it may concern,

Re: Support for mobile coverage in the Eyre Peninsula region

Grain Producers SA (GPSA) wishes to offer its full support to the submission prepared by Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) and the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) for the nomination of mobile black spots in the Eyre Peninsula region.

GPSA is the peak industry body for South Australian grain producers. It is unique in that it is a non-political body that represents all grain producers to government, the community and industry. It is funded via the SA Grain Industry Fund (Primary Industries Funding Scheme) which nearly all grain producers in South Australia contribute to. GPSA is a founding member of Primary Producers SA.

South Australia's grain industries are large and diverse, making a significant contribution to the economy. Total grain production in South Australia from an estimated 3,000 grain producing businesses for the 2014-15 season was 7.63 million tonnes from 4.04 million hectares. With an estimated farm gate value of over \$1.8 billion & export value of \$2.2 billion, the grains industry is a not only a major contributor to the economy it is also a significant export earner. In addition, the agribusiness sector is a major provider of jobs employing approximately 1 in 5 South Australian workers. 1

The Eyre Peninsula is an important region contributing to these state statistics. Its agriculture industry accounts for 37% of the state's grain production, of which 97% is exported. Eyre Peninsula grain growers operate in a transparent global market which requires access to the best communication available to remain competitive and improve profitability.

It is unacceptable that some Eyre Peninsula growers are forced to sell their grain via "Grain Pools" rather than "Cash Sale" as the mobile phone coverage and internet access is too poor to rely on for the instantaneous nature of modern grain trading. We estimate on the Eyre Peninsula alone this is an impost of some \$3.13 million.

We reiterate our strong support for the submission prepared by RDAWEP and the EPLGA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Arney', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Darren Arney
Chief Executive Officer