

MEDIA RELEASE

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Project to advocate for Indi mobile black spot improvements

Eight of the Councils in the Indi electorate have partnered with the Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan AO MP to form a telecommunications advocacy group to address the immediate and future mobile phone service needs across the electorate.

The Indi Telecommunications Advocacy Group (ITAG) is seeking a local consultant to map the mobile phone profile of North East Victoria. They will also develop a comprehensive document that provides the basis for advocacy and support submissions to State and Federal Governments.

The Indi Councils have combined resources through ITAG in an effort to strengthen the voice of the region in lobbying for mobile phone improvements and accessing the Australian Government's \$100M Mobile Coverage Program funding.

The Mobile Coverage Program will deliver new telecommunications infrastructure to solve black spots that affect:

- Major transport routes;
- Small communities without current reception;
- Areas which are prone to experiencing natural disasters; and
- Areas with high seasonal demand.

Large areas of North East Victoria do not currently have mobile phone reception and address the criteria listed above.

The ITAG aims to respond to any funding opportunities by having the Indi-wide issues documented with the key black spots identified and possible solutions investigated and costed.

The group is seeking to engage the services of a consultant to assist the Indi advocacy initiative. The consultant will ideally be locally based with a strong understanding of the telecommunications industry and the issues currently facing North East Victoria as a result of the many black spots that exist.

Expressions of interest are open until Friday 25 July. Interested parties can contact Lauren Elvin, Manager Economic Development for more information or Sue Arndt at Mansfield Shire Council on sue.arndt@mansfield.vic.gov.au for copy of the consultancy brief.