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THE PROBLEM

Inadequate mobile phone coverage continues to hinder economic growth, tourism and investment in the North East region. A large portion of the agriculture sector operates with limited internet and mobile phone services, threatening business productivity and competitiveness.

The Strathbogie Shire also attracts significant visitation at peak periods, such as the iconic Violet Town Market, which attracts up to 10,000 people on the third Saturday of every month and the variety of major water events at Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre, which can bring up to 10,000 people. Poor coverage hinders the attractiveness of these events and visitors' ability to access phone and internet services in our region.

Mobile black spots also pose a huge risk to public health and safety. As a recognised bushfire prone area with two major interstate freeways and two major rail lines, the ability to contact emergencies services is crucial in all parts of the shire.

THE SOLUTION

Further investment in eradication of blackspots and the establishment of a minimum band width across the Strathbogie Shire will work to reduce the digital divide experienced by industries and households in the shire.

Strathbogie Shire Council will contribute by facilitating the planning approval process, identifying appropriate land and working with landowners to bring greater infrastructure to the region.

THE ASK

Project	Description
Mobile Black Spots	Eradication of mobile black spots through provision of more infrastructure in reported black spot locations
Band width	Setting a minimum band width in the townships of the Strathbogie Shire will ensure adequate internet speed to facilitate businesses and households

THE RESULT

- ✓ Improved health, education and employment opportunities
- ✓ Increased economic development and productivity in rural and remote areas of the shire
- ✓ Greater business investment in the shire, boosting the local economy
- ✓ Increased capacity for major events, such as GoFish Nagambie happening in April 2019
- ✓ **Public safety** across the shire in times of emergency

