

## Regional Mobile Communications Project (RMCP)

During 2010/2011, the Wheatbelt Development Commission requested detailed telecommunications information from all Wheatbelt Local Governments (43), including the identification of blackspots. Following the consultation period with Local Governments, 98 sites were identified with the following information included:

- The name of the Local Government reporting the black spot;
- Unique economic and social circumstances;
- The proximity of the closest location with coverage to any reported black spot;
- Town coverage; and
- Proximity to any major transport routes and potential usage in the longer term.

All Local Governments were contacted by the Wheatbelt Development Commission to provide potential sites, with follow up calls regarding the impending closure of the submission period. The RMCP project focused on delivering improved highway and townsite coverage for regional, remote and rural areas of Western Australia.

Through the RMCP program Stage 1 (\$40 million), 113 towers or service upgrades in Western Australia have been delivered and completed as of September 2014, with 16 new towers or significant upgrades (14% of the RMCP) located in the Wheatbelt. This has provided improved telecommunications infrastructure to the following:

| Approximate Location                          | Shire/Local Government Area |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Flint   | Shire of Beverley (1)       |
| Wongonderrah                                  | Shire of Dandaragan (1)     |
| Breton Bay;<br>North Gingin; and<br>Woodridge | Shire of Gingin (3)         |
| Kondinin                                      | Shire of Kondinin (1)       |
| Koorda  | Shire of Koorda (1)         |
| Miling  | Shire of Moora (1)          |
| Bencubbin                                     | Shire of Mount Marshall (1) |
| Mukinbudin                                    | Shire of Mukinbudin (1)     |
| Narembeen                                     | Shire of Narembeen (1)      |
| Clackline; and<br>Woottating                  | Shire of Northam (2)        |
| West Arthur                                   | Shire of West Arthur (1)    |
| Wickepin East                                 | Shire of Wickepin (1)       |
| Ballidu                                       | Shire of Wongan-Ballidu (1) |

The Wheatbelt Development Commission will continue to be involved in the identification of gaps in telecommunications infrastructure in the Wheatbelt and preliminary prioritisation of sites. The provision of additional sites, technical information and identification of telecommunications issues is of the utmost importance to the Commission. Ensuring that business, communities and industry have access to mobile telecommunications is crucial for economic growth and community wellbeing.