



MEDIA RELEASE

Five new mobile stations for New England

18 Mar 2019

People living in the New England can now look forward to improved mobile phone coverage thanks to the Liberal and Nationals Government's \$220 million Mobile Black Spot Program.

Minister for Regional Services Bridget McKenzie and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, today announced the New England will receive five new base stations under the fourth round of the program. The new infrastructure will be completed by Telstra.

"I'm thrilled that people at Moonan Flat, Legume, Torrington, Wellingrove Creek and Weabonga can now enjoy the benefits and opportunities that improved mobile connectivity brings from these new base stations," Mr Joyce said.

"They form part of a network of 42 new and upgraded mobile base stations we are delivering across the New England under this program, meaning small businesses stay connected, motorists are afforded more safety on the road and we can better access health and online services on the go."

Minister McKenzie said Round 4 of the program will deliver base stations for regional and remote communities, including public interest premises such as tourist sites and emergency services facilities.

"The announcement of successful Round 4 base stations means 1047 base stations are being delivered under the Mobile Black Spot Program. This reaffirms our commitment to delivering 21st century connectivity to our regions and will benefit thousands of Australians.

"Our continued investment in mobile phone infrastructure is proof that we are focused on connecting all Australians no matter where they live," Minister McKenzie said.

The Mobile Black Spot Program enables mobile carriers to service areas where it would otherwise not be commercially viable. So far the program is generating over \$760 million of new investment including contributions from state and local governments, mobile network operators, businesses and local communities.

Base stations under the first three rounds are expected to be operational by 30 June 2019. Round 4 base stations are expected to roll out shortly with the first new base stations being activated by the second half of the year. More information about the program is available at: communications.gov.au/mbsp

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

(ENDS)

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