



## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### BLACK SPOT REDUCTION AND GREATER INTERNET CONNECTION

*Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State and Federal Governments to reduce mobile blackspots and improve internet connection in our towns and rural areas which are at most risk from natural disasters such as fire, and are at an economic disadvantage due to lack of communications access.*

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#### THE ASK

##### **Mobile towers to enable faster and wider spread communications from emergency services alerts**

To help prevent further devastation and loss of life through faster and wider spread emergency messages during natural disaster events, the following areas are in immediate need of mobile towers:

- > Glenaroua
- > Pyalong
- > Whiteheads Creek
- > Beveridge
- > Kilmore
- > Mitchell Shire's rural Western fringe

##### **Mobile towers and internet connection to increase economic potential**

To help unlock economic potential in our towns, rural communities and growth areas, mobile reception and reliable internet connectivity is needed. In particular, it is most needed for those trying to operate small businesses and farm enterprises where lack of mobile coverage and dependable Internet is a significant disadvantage.

#### BENEFITS

##### **Mobile towers to prevent destruction and loss of life from natural disaster events**

Mobile towers in our most vulnerable areas will enable faster and wider spread communications from emergency services alerts, potentially saving lives. In addition, community members may feel safer living in our rural areas when they have access to emergency alerts, enhancing the liveability of the Mitchell Shire and attracting more residents to our rural areas.

##### **Mobile towers and Internet connection to increase economic potential**

Greater mobile reception and reliable internet connection in our towns and rural areas will encourage and create more opportunities for economic growth. In particular it will give small businesses and farms a better chance to make their business more secure and potentially more competitive, creating the opportunity for more local jobs and tourist opportunities.



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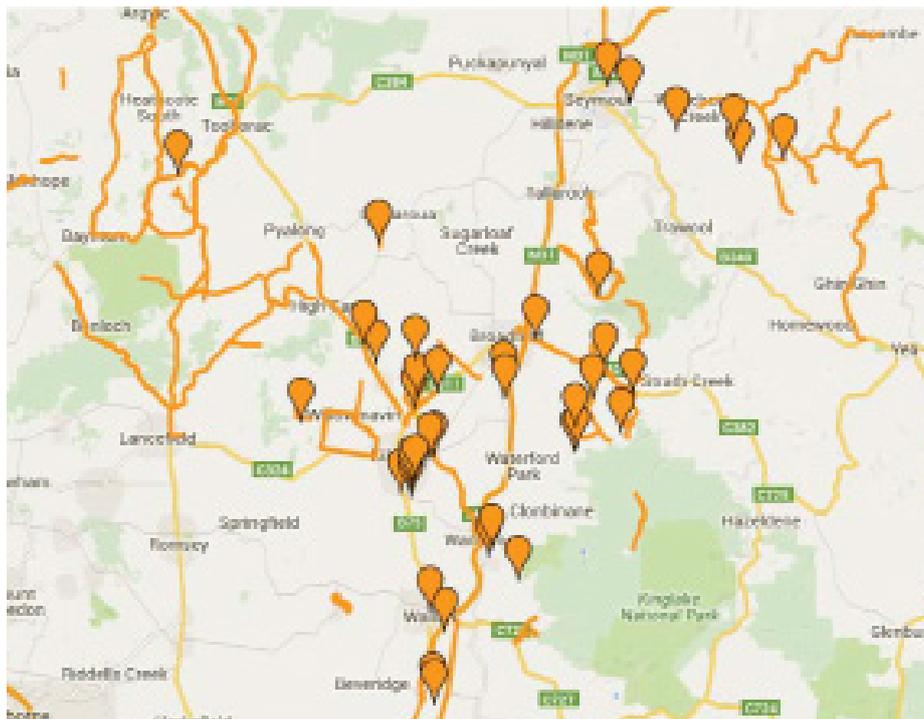
## BLACK SPOT REDUCTION AND GREATER INTERNET CONNECTION

### CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of approximately 47,000<sup>1</sup> and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria<sup>2</sup>. In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 270,000<sup>3</sup>.

In the 2016 Census over 2,000 households in the Mitchell Shire reported having no internet access<sup>4</sup>, and there are multiple reports of limited or no mobile reception in isolated rural communities<sup>5</sup>.

In 2009, Mitchell Shire was impacted by the devastating fires of Black Saturday, which claimed the lives of 173 people<sup>6</sup>. In 2014, Mitchell Shire communities were impacted again by the Kilmore/Mickleham fire, which burnt over 22,000 hectares and destroyed 13 houses<sup>7</sup>.



**Blackspot Register (2016), Mitchell Shire Council**

### MORE INFORMATION.

Advocacy and Community Services

(03) 5734 6200

**MITCHELL  
SHIRE COUNCIL**



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5. Blackspot Register (2016), Mitchell Shire Council  
6. Nma.gov.au. (2018). 'Black Saturday' bushfires in Victoria | National Museum of Australia. [online] Available at: [www.nma.gov.au/online\\_features/defining\\_moments/featured/black-saturday-bushfires](http://www.nma.gov.au/online_features/defining_moments/featured/black-saturday-bushfires) [Accessed 7 Feb. 2018].  
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