



LLEW O'BRIEN MP

Federal Member for Wide Bay

Ref LO/NH

24 August 2026

Mr Lester Kirkwood
5 Rainforest Court
Boreen Point QLD 4565

Dear Mr Kirkwood

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concerns about the lack of mobile phone coverage in your area. My office has received several concerns from constituents from around Cootharaba on this matter.

I understand the frustration and inconvenience that comes from having unreliable or no mobile phone coverage, and how important it is to be able to call for help when disasters and emergencies strike.

I have been advised there was an upgrade to the existing mobile phone base station at Cooroibah in January this year to enhance the 4G and 5G network serviced from that location. I have also been advised that Telstra replaced the panel antennas on the Cooroibah mobile phone base station, to enhance the mobile phone signal emitted from the base station, however it seems this has provided little improvement.

I will also ensure that your location is added to the Mobile Black Spot Project Noticeboard for the next round of the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP).

The Coalition has serious concerns about the way in which round six of the MBSP was managed by the Albanese Labor Government, with nearly 75% of the projects funded under the program delivered in Labor held seats.

There were fifty-four sites funded under that round of the program, but only four were in Queensland, and zero were in Wide Bay.

In the time since I was elected in 2016, the former Coalition Government made good progress in extending mobile coverage to nineteen locations across Wide Bay. It is disappointing that the Albanese Labor Government has failed to make any new investments to improve coverage in Wide Bay since it was elected in 2022.

A number of Wide Bay residents have also let me know of their concerns about the closure of the 3G network, particularly that mobile phone coverage in some areas has deteriorated following the shutdown of the 3G network. Where drops in service have been experienced, I encourage you to continue liaising with Telstra regional so they may seek a solution.

I will be writing to the Minister for Communications in relation to the lack of mobile coverage in your area and the urgent need for additional funding to improve telecommunications in parts of Wide Bay.

Thank you again for contacting me about mobile phone coverage in your area, I understand that this is an ongoing issue, and I will continue to advocate for upgrades to the mobile telecommunication network across Wide Bay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Llew O'Brien'.

LLEW O'BRIEN MP

Federal Member for Wide Bay

Shadow Special Envoy for Men and Boys