



Shadow Minister for Regional Communications
Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government

Mr Grant Hehir
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Hehir

I am writing about the Mobile Black Spot program administered by the Department of Communications.

This program has been the subject of unfavourable findings from both the ANAO, the Productivity Commission and the ACCC in recent years.

It has come to my attention that the Kingstown mobile base station, co-funded under this government program is located on Sundown Valley Pastoral Company, in a location that is not delivering benefits for the Kingstown community.

I believe the decision-making around the location of this particular base station should be investigated to ascertain if proper Departmental procedures were adhered to and if decision making was influenced by factors outside of the programs objectives.

I understand that you are already considering an audit of Round 3 of this program. In that round, the Coalition Government selected the locations for co-funding, leading to criticisms from State Governments alleging the program was not delivering good outcomes for the community.

I urge you to progress this potential audit and to pay specific attention to the identification of the Kingstown base station for Commonwealth funding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Jones MP
Shadow Minister for Regional Communications
Member for Whitlam

7 April 2019