

SUBMISSION

Regarding **MOBILE BLACK SPOTS in THE REGION OF IRONSTONE GULLY FALLS**

on Goodwood Road between Capel and Donnybrook, W.A.

- Ironstone Gully falls is 48km from the **Cities of Bunbury and Busselton**
- Goodwood Road has no coverage for the approximate distance of **25km** (except for two spots of intermittent coverage). From “Eight mile hill” (fifteen kilometres from Capel) to the outskirts of Donnybrook is out of range. This is a very winding, hilly road with hairpin bends some of which are the original bullock tracks, later sealed. The road is dangerous with a high kangaroo /emu population. An insurance company some years ago stated that this road was a high costing road for insurance claims. Accidents or breakdowns are unreportable except by landline.
- Heavy vehicles using Goodwood Road include trucks regularly carrying gravel from gravel mining operations which supply many shires of the region, timber trucks, fruit and vegetable trucks and cattle trucks. Other vehicles on the road are required to move on to the gravel verge when crossing.
- The large area involved has no mobile coverage for **SES Services**, or community warnings during fire season. There is heavy forestation in this area, and **high fire risk**.
- There have been, I understand, one road fatality and three Arson incidents on this road last year.
- Goodwood road is a Scenic Tourist route, used by **many travellers**. Ironstone Gully is used by overnight **campers** on a regular basis, and some stay for days or weeks. Many are from overseas and unaware of Australian conditions. Sometimes fires are lit and left to burn unattended on summer nights, potentially risking property/ community. I once found a fire burning at 4am and had to go to a local farmer for help, leaving the fire because of no mobile coverage.
- Visitors are frequent at the waterfalls. I collected 65 signatures from people from midday until 4pm on the 2nd of September, regarding the Mobile phone services issue. I did not approach people, but asked as they approached me. There were twice as many children there as adults. One child was seen to be nearly run over when crossing the road at the bridge. There is risk of falling from heights, falling on rock and **injury**, drowning, or becoming lost. **Health issues** like heart attacks warrant mobile coverage to urgently call ambulances.
- Parts of Goodwood Road and Jarrahwood road are used by forestry workers for the felling and collection of trees. Lack of mobile coverage is a **WHS issue**.
- Parts of Goodwood Road and Jarrahwood road are designated firewood collecting areas. This activity with use of chainsaws is **dangerous**, and there is risk of people being **lost or bitten by snakes**. The area is known for populations of Tiger snakes, dugites and other **venomous snakes**, and mobile phone emergency Apps could save lives.

Submission prepared by
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- There are many wine/fruit /cattle farms which employ many people in (often dangerous) **farming activities**. Some are open to the public. **Mobile phone contact could be the difference between saving lives or losing lives.**
- Local people and tourists are **inconvenienced /isolated** by lack of mobile coverage, and are required to travel long distances to make contact.
- Regular organised and private recreational **motorbike events** take place in the area of forest south of Goodwood road, which again warrants urgent provision of mobile towers.
- Many recreational fishers use Goodwood road.
- There is a Telstra phone exchange, Shire rubbish tip and a community fire truck shed on Goodwood Road.
- Of the two hundred and people I have asked for signed support on this issue, only three declined. **The signatures collected now number 200.**
- Nearly everyone said they are frustrated by bad or no reception, and one commented that they had better reception in the middle of the desert in Morocco. It is overdue that in the Southwest we should still be struggling with this issue.
- The farms along the Goodwood road have supplied food and resources since early 1900's to many regions; the current inhabitants deserve **equitable** digital resources.

Signed
D.S.SADDLETON