

## Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

### Grant awarded to expand mobile coverage at Fanny Cove

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

- Expansion of mobile services at 18 regional beaches to commence late 2023
- McGowan Government committed to improving safety at regional beaches
- Fanny Cove in Esperance will have new equipment installed to improve communication in an emergency.

Improved mobile coverage at regional surf beaches is one step closer with the successful applicant appointed to upgrade telecommunications infrastructure at popular locations along the State's coastline.

Powertec Telecommunications has been awarded a grant to commission Cel-Fi repeaters at 18 sites located from the Kimberley to Esperance.

The McGowan Government committed \$1 million under the Regional Telecommunications Project to improve communication in an emergency, as well as expand mobile coverage for regional communities and businesses.

The locations were chosen in consultation with Surfing WA, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Shark Response Unit and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

The upgrades follow the successful installation of a small cell mobile base station at Twilight Beach in Esperance in late 2020.

The new equipment will be installed at several popular beaches including Fanny Cove, west of Esperance.

Installation is expected to commence in the second half of this year.

#### **Comments attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC**

"Communication in an emergency is of utmost importance especially in regional areas," she said.

"Esperance gets lots of visitors during the peak summer period so improving coverage in the region has the potential to save lives".

"It is great to know this important piece of infrastructure will be installed in time for next summer."

#### **Comments attributed to Fisheries and Regional Development Minister Don Punch:**

"Expanding mobile coverage at some of our most remote beach locations through the McGowan Government's Surf Beaches Mobile Coverage Grants Program will vastly improve connectivity across regional WA and potentially save lives.

"In the case of an emergency, the ability to communicate quickly and effectively is vital."

"Investing in upgrades to telecommunications infrastructure not only enables our regional communities to thrive, in this case it is also helps to keep Western Australians safe at the beach."

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<b>Sites/Surf Beaches</b>	<b>Region</b>
Exmouth Dunes Surf Beach	Gascoyne
Lighthouse Bay	Gascoyne
Turtles (between Red Bluff and 3 Mile)	Gascoyne
Fanny Cove - Esperance	Goldfields-Esperance
Cheynes	Great Southern
Dingo Beach	Great Southern
Greens Pool	Great Southern
Mazzoletti Beach	Great Southern
Crab Creek area (Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park) immediately West of Broome on Roebuck Bay	Kimberley
Willie Creek area/Flat Rock (Yawuru Minyirr Buru Conservation Park)	Pilbara
Cape Keraudren	Kimberley
Banksia Camp	South-West
Salmon Beach	South-West
Bombing range further South of Dolphins Beach	Wheatbelt
Dolphins Beach south of South Rocks	Wheatbelt
Hangover Bay	Wheatbelt
Wedge near Wedge Settlement	Wheatbelt
Wilbinga Beach/Wilbinga Shacks	Wheatbelt