



# *Media Release*

## *Senator Alan Eggleston*

### *Liberal Senator for Western Australia*

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#### **PHONE SERVICES TO MARBLE BAR NEED UPGRADING: SENATOR**

SECURING mobile phone coverage for Marble Bar must be a priority for the State and Federal Governments, WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston said today.

Senator Eggleston has today written to the Prime Minister asking for help to obtain coverage for Marble Bar residents, to ensure that they have the same access to telecommunications as nearly every other Australian.

“In these times, it is unacceptable to me that a town like Marble Bar should not have mobile phone coverage,” he said.

“Mobile phone coverage would greatly assist local people in terms of coordinating emergency services. It would also provide a welcome boost to the tourist industry.”

Senator Eggleston, a former Mayor of Port Hedland, said Marble Bar residents had worked extremely hard over several decades to have the road between Port Hedland and Marble Bar sealed, and with the increased tourism potential of the region it was now vital that phone coverage follow.

“The final 36.5km of an all-weather road linking Port Hedland and Marble Bar has made the town more accessible than ever, but as local people point out, tourists these days will not stay long if they are unable to keep in touch with those back home,” he said.

“The Marble Bar Tourist Association has been very proactive in lobbying for this and have rightly pointed out that every business in town suffers if the needs of tourists are not met.

“I will be pursuing this matter very vigorously in the Federal Parliament to ensure that the people of Marble Bar get access to what is these days considered a very necessary form of telecommunication.”