

Connecting Indi

February 2022



Helen
Haines

Mobile connectivity is crucial to our prosperity in Indi

Strong mobile coverage affects everything we do in Indi

Whether it's running a local business, contacting emergency services in a bushfire, or calling a friend on the drive home from town to the farm, we all rely on strong mobile coverage in Indi.

Our economic future as a region depends on state and federal governments and telcos pitching in more funds to close the long standing communications divide between us and our city cousins.

Since I was elected, I have worked hard to ensure Indi puts the best case forward for funding to build the mobile infrastructure that supports our families, communities and local economy.

Using official data compiled by the Australian Parliamentary Library, this report shows what we've achieved and where to next.

Independent, community-led approaches deliver results

I have steered the **Indi Telecommunications Advisory Group** since 2019.

ITAG is a local consultative committee comprising all nine local governments and teleco representatives who develop community-led responses to telecommunication challenges across Indi. Working together, ITAG tracks mobile black spots and other connectivity issues across the electorate and assembles strong community-led cases for funding to fix them. ITAG also contributes to national planning and policy setting, including the recent Regional Telecommunications Review.

This report documents ITAG's success in securing more federal funding for black spots in Indi than anywhere else in Victoria.

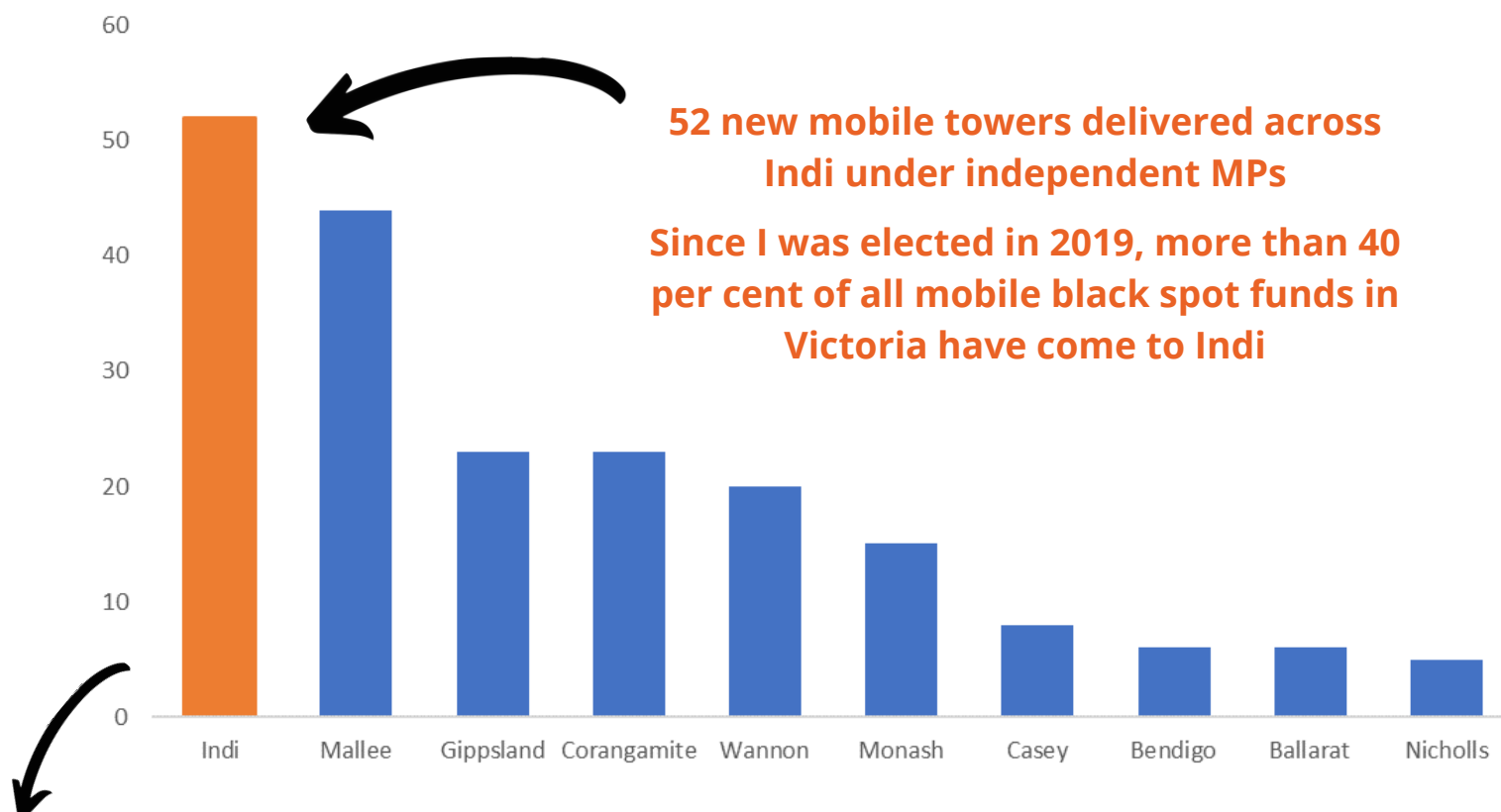


Indi is the most successful electorate in Victoria under the \$380m Commonwealth Mobile Black Spot Program

Top Electorates

Durack
O'Connor
Maranoa
Indi
Grey
New England
Mallee
Lingiari
Kennedy
Calare
Eden-Monaro
Flynn
Lyons
Parkes
Page
Barker
Hume
Riverina
Gippsland
Corangamite
Forrest
Farrer
Wannon
Leichhardt
Capricornia
Wide Bay
Pearce
Monash
Braddon

4th most
successful
electorate
nation wide



52 new mobile towers delivered across
Indi under independent MPs

Since I was elected in 2019, more than 40
per cent of all mobile black spot funds in
Victoria have come to Indi

Top Performers:

Towong Shire secured **14** new towers

Murrindindi Shire secured **10** new towers

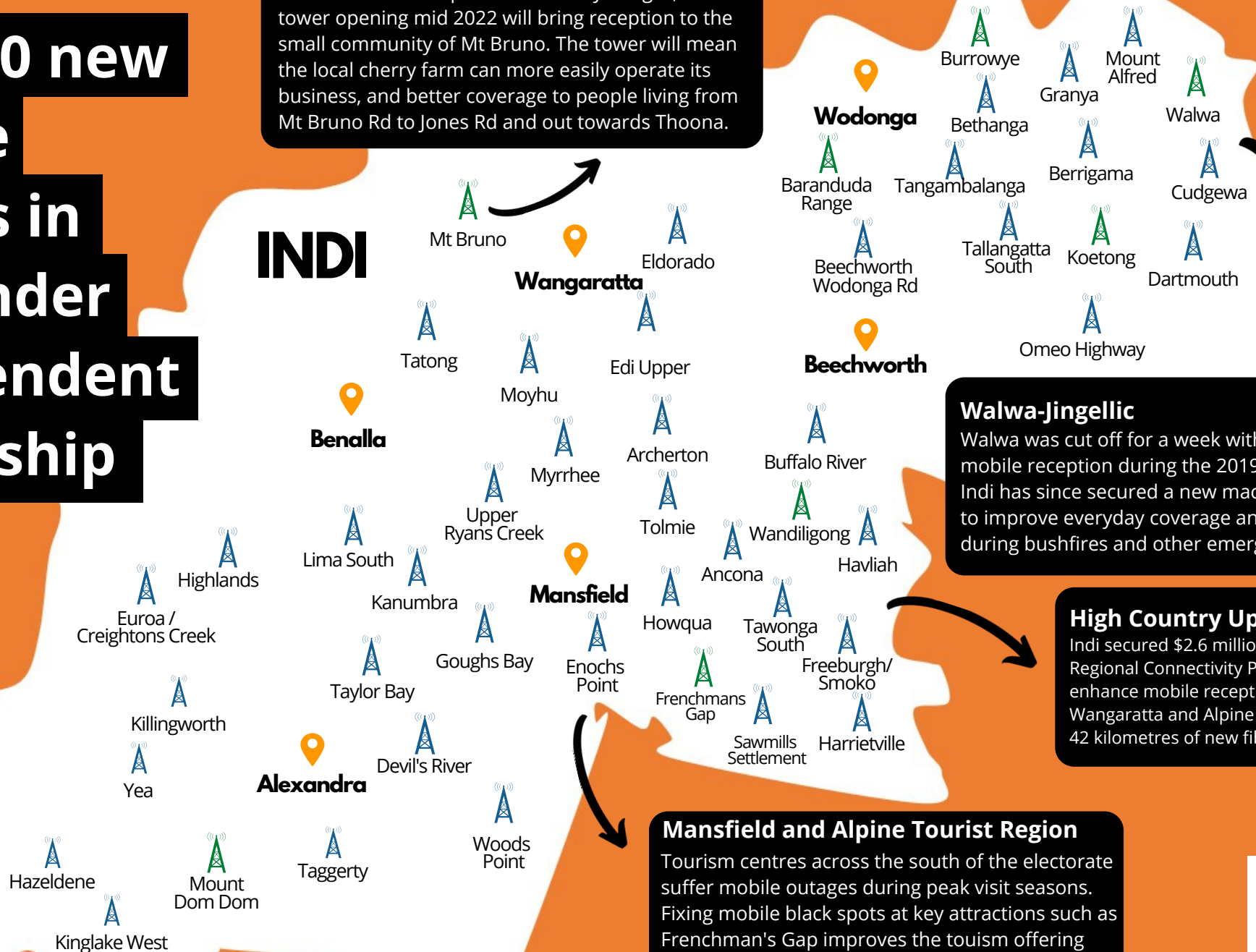
Mansfield Shire secured **9** new towers

Over 50 new mobile towers in Indi under independent leadership

Supporting farms in Mt Bruno

On the Western slopes of the Warby Ranges, a new tower opening mid 2022 will bring reception to the small community of Mt Bruno. The tower will mean the local cherry farm can more easily operate its business, and better coverage to people living from Mt Bruno Rd to Jones Rd and out towards Thoona.

INDI



Walwa-Jingellic

Walwa was cut off for a week with no power or mobile reception during the 2019-20 bushfires. Indi has since secured a new macrocell facility to improve everyday coverage and resilience during bushfires and other emergencies.

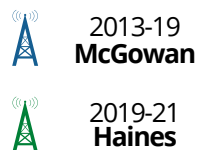
High Country Upgrade

Indi secured \$2.6 million under the Regional Connectivity Program to enhance mobile reception across the Wangaratta and Alpine shires, including 42 kilometres of new fibre optic cable.

Mansfield and Alpine Tourist Region

Tourism centres across the south of the electorate suffer mobile outages during peak visit seasons. Fixing mobile black spots at key attractions such as Frenchman's Gap improves the tourism offering and supports local economic development.

MAP KEY



Source: Australian Parliamentary Library, January 2022

There is still so much more work to do

Indi has achieved incredible success through the Indi Telecommunications Advisory Group, but there are still many more black spots and other mobile connectivity issues across the electorate that need urgent funding to resolve.

That's why, if reelected, I am committing to securing even more funding to fix the remaining black spot and connectivity issues across the electorate.

Right now, the maximum amount we can request for new towers is \$500,000. This needs to be increased to \$1 million so we can fund difficult to construct mobile towers and bring the most effective technology to Indi.

The backing of a strong, community-led member is critical to our success.

Every day, people from across Indi contact my office to tell me about the mobile black spots that affect their lives which need urgent fixing. In partnership with ITAG, I keep track of these locations to inform future funding round applications.

Current priority locations include:

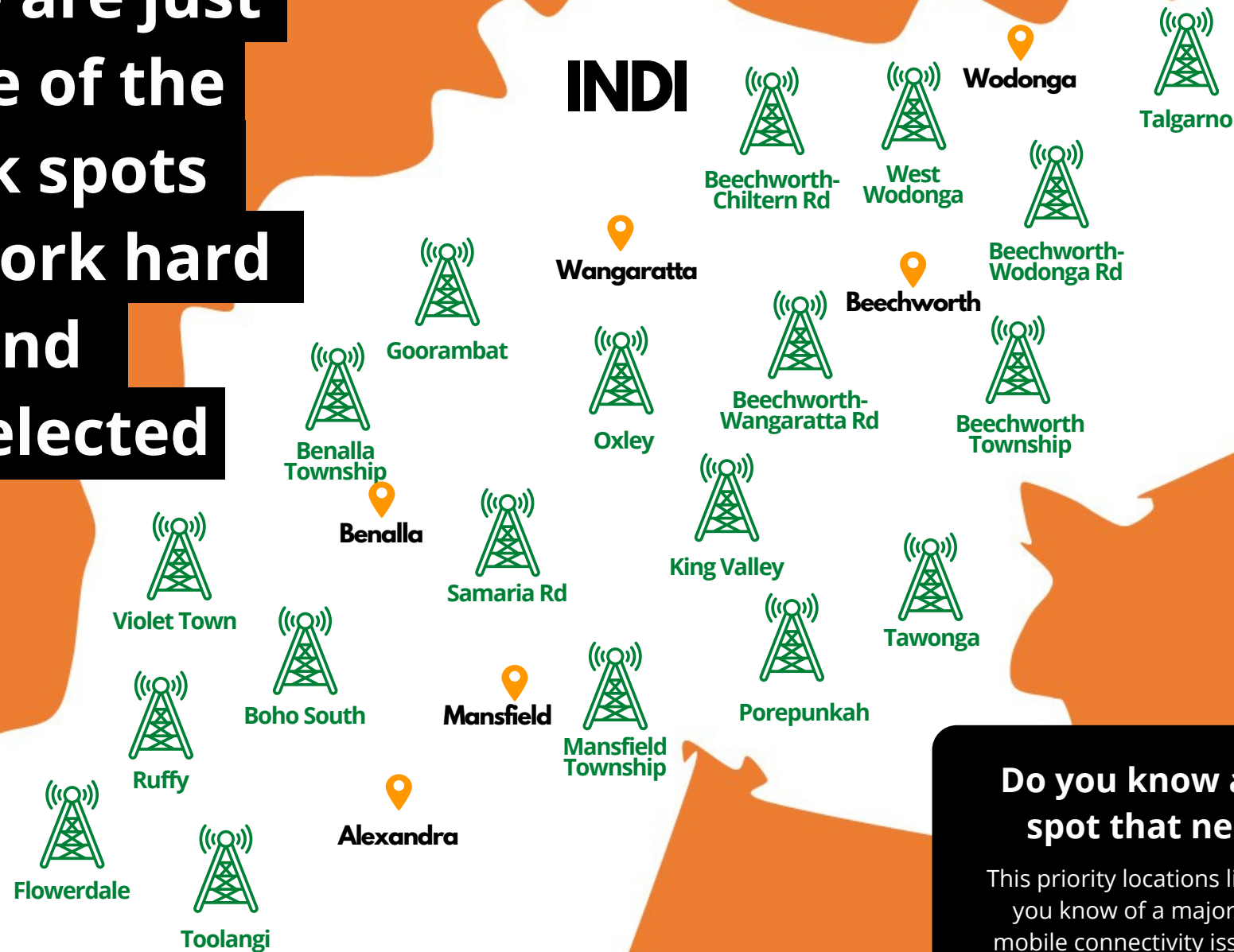
- **Porepunkah**, Alpine Shire
- **Tawonga**, Alpine Shire
- **Goorambat**, Benalla Shire
- **Samaria Rd**, Benalla Shire
- **Beechworth-Chiltern Rd**, Indigo Shire
- **Beechworth-Wodonga Rd**, Indigo Shire
- **Beechworth Township**, Indigo Shire
- **Benalla Township**, Benalla Shire
- **Mansfield Township**, Mansfield Shire
- **Flowerdale**, Murrindindi Shire
- **Toolangi**, Murrindindi Shire
- **Boho South**, Strathbogie Shire
- **Violet Town**, Strathbogie Shire
- **Ruffy**, Strathbogie Shire
- **Talgarno**, Towong Shire
- **Wang-Beechworth Rd**, Wangaratta City
- **Oxley**, Wangaratta City
- **King Valley**, Wangaratta City
- **West Wodonga**, Wodonga City



Do you know a local black spot that needs fixing?

This priority locations list is not exhaustive. If you know of a major black spot or other mobile connectivity issue, call my office and let my team know. I will not stop fighting to fix mobile issues across the Indi.

Here are just
some of the
black spots
I'll work hard
to fund
if reelected



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