

MOBILE PHONE

HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

1 A Coalition Government will strengthen Australia's transport network by extending mobile phone coverage.

1 The Coalition will allocate funds of \$25 million over three years, from the sale of 16 per cent of Telstra, to provide 100 per cent continuous digital mobile phone coverage on many major national highways. This is expected to require an additional 129 base stations.

1 This initiative will ensure 100 per cent continuous mobile phone coverage along 8,400 kilometres of the nation's busiest highways, including:

- the Princes, Pacific and Bruce Highways (Highways 1) from Adelaide to Port Douglas (via Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane)
- the New England Highway from Sydney to Brisbane
- the Hume Highway from Melbourne to Sydney
- the Western Highway from Melbourne to Adelaide
- the Sturt Highway from Sydney to Adelaide
- the Newell Highway from Melbourne to Brisbane
- the Barton and Federal Highways into Canberra; and

ä the Midland and Bass Highways from Hobart to Burnie.

1 Australians are among the highest users of mobile phones in the world, with almost one third owning a mobile phone.

1 Australians use their mobile phones to keep in touch while travelling, to make vital business and personal calls, and to quickly summon emergency assistance.

1 Providing adequate coverage in a continent as large as Australia is an enormous challenge. There are still significant stretches of our major highways where there is no coverage. That is why the Coalition is allocating funds to provide increased coverage.