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Move to advance broadband position

REGION - Northern Grampians Shire Council is working with other Central Highland Councils to move the region up the priority list for the National Broadband Network rollout.

The councils will submit a proposal based on the results of a study being carried out by the University of Ballarat's Centre for eCommerce and Communications.

The study will look at current broadband statistics in the area, including connection numbers, service satisfaction and areas of pent up demand for services.

The study will also identify how broadband technologies act as an enabler for economic and social development in the Central Highlands and Wimmera Southern Mallee regions.

Council's general manager business services, Samantha Magill,

said the study would be instrumental in lobbying to achieve an early broadband rollout in the region.

"We're more aware now than ever before that our ICT provision in the area is just not up to par so were very pleased to have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of this study," Ms Magill said.

"The group is confident that there will be some tangible outcomes from commissioning this report and we do expect to see some positive results in the near future."

A community information session will be held in Horsham on Tuesday, September 7.

For more information on the session visit www.cecc.com.au/broadband_information_session.