
To: Project Control Group and Key Contacts

Date: 8 July 2011

Main topic: ICT project update

Useful information

\$17.1 million program to benefit local government

- Improved local government services will result from a \$17.1 million program announced on 22 June 2011 by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy. The program will assist local governments to deliver innovative online services — in particular to homes and businesses. The aim is to develop solutions which can be adopted by other councils and rolled out across the country as the NBN rolls out, leading to a step change in the quality, availability and speed of local government services. More information can be accessed from www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/programs_and_initiatives/digital_local_government_program

Best practice guide for councils when initially dealing with NBN Co

- Commissioned by NBN Co and conducted by research firm Ovum, the Best Practice Guide for Councils when initially dealing with NBN Co was released on 22 June 2011 at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in Canberra and can be accessed from www.alga.asn.au/publications/NBN_Co_ALGA_Ovum_Report.pdf

NBN interim satellite service to boost regional broadband

- The NBN interim satellite service was launched on 1 July 2011. This service will deliver substantial speed and performance improvements over current satellite services offering peak speeds of 6 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload. The interim satellite service replaces the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) for eligible rural and regional Australians. More information can be accessed from www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/211

NBN Co and Telstra sign binding definitive agreements

- Telstra and NBN Co announced their intention to enter into Definitive Agreements on the rollout of the NBN on 23 June 2011. The Definitive Agreements will allow for a cheaper, more efficient rollout of the NBN. They are also an important step in the reform of the telecommunications industry, paving the way for the structural separation of Telstra and construction of the NBN. More information can be accessed from www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/203

Optus agrees to migrate HFC customers to NBN

- NBN Co and Optus announced the signing of binding agreements to Migrate HFC Customers to NBN on 23 June 2011. More information can be accessed from www.nbnco.com.au/news-and-events/news/nbn-co--optus-sign-binding-agreement.html

Research in progress

Yarra Ranges Broadband Economy Study

- The Yarra Ranges Broadband Economy Study will determine how a broadband economy, through improved ICT infrastructure and its use, will impact economic development and levels of community innovation in the Yarra Ranges municipality. It involves assessing current broadband services, the factors impacting broadband supply and levels of pent up demand for ICT services. More information can be accessed from <http://yarraranges.cecc.com.au/>
- A total of 273 valid survey responses were received during the March – April 2011 data collection period, with an iPad 2 used as an incentive to participate. Survey results have been mapped and can be reviewed at a LGA and township level at www.cecc.com.au/yarra_map.php
- 17 interviews have been completed across a range of business and community sectors
- Project reporting for the study is currently being finalised

Great South Coast Regional Communications Strategy

- The Great South Coast Regional Communications Strategy will provide the vision for the region to move forward and be a leader in the 'digital innovation community' and assist in enhancing readiness for an early roll-out of the NBN. It will include an action plan to engage the region's community and businesses in the acceptance of and maximisation of the benefits derived from NBN connectivity More information can be accessed from www.cecc.com.au/gsc
- More than 598 businesses and residents have completed the regional communications survey in the period since 17 May 2011. Survey results have been mapped and can be reviewed at a regional, LGA and township level at www.cecc.com.au/gsc_map.php
- Interviews for eight regional case studies have been completed across a range of sectors including business services, agriculture, health and education
- Project activities will be finalised during July 2011

Project team activities

Communications

- Interviewed by The Age telecommunications reporter, Lucy Battersby – 30 June 2011
- Interviewed by ABC Ballarat radio – 7 June 2011

Event participation

- Presented at the Australian Computer Society's Telecommunications Society of Australia Forum – 28 June 2011
- Attended a presentation by Brad Howarth, author of *A Faster Future*, at the Ballarat Technology Park Breakfast – 21 June 2011
- Attended the Twilight Technical Talk on cloud computing – 2 June 2011
- Attended the launch of the National Digital Economy Strategy at CeBIT in Sydney – 31 May 2011
- Attended the NBN Bacchus Marsh Communications and Community Engagement Workshop – 24 May 2011
- Attended the Victorian eHealth Network Breakfast in Melbourne – 20 May 2011
- Attended a briefing with Senator Stephen Conroy in Melbourne – 20 May 2011
- Attended the Wimmera Mallee Community Sustainability Conference in Stawell – 12 May 2011
- Attended the VicICT for Women Annual Dinner in Melbourne – 12 May 2011

- Attended the Australian Broadband Communications Summit in Sydney – 4-5 May 2011
- Attended the Korea-Australia-New Zealand (KANZ) Broadband Summit in Hobart – 28-29 April 2011
- Participated in the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Local Government Online Services Workshop in Melbourne – 25 March 2011
- Presented to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications inquiry into the role and potential of the National Broadband Network in Ballarat – 17 March 2011
- Attended the Asialink National ICT Forum in Melbourne where speakers included Senator Stephen Conroy and Mike Quigley – 10 March 2011
- Attended the East Metropolitan RDA NBN Forum – 9 February 2011
- Attended the NBN Co Customer Collaboration Forum – 2 February 2011

Stakeholder consultation

- Met with Department of Business and Innovation, Science and Technology Policy representative – 7 July 2011
- Met with Enterprise Connect representatives regarding the Mapping the Connections project for the Ballarat ICT Cluster – 21 June 2011
- Met with Leif Hanlen from NICTA eHealth Cluster regarding potential collaboration opportunities – 17 June 2011
- Met with Deakin University researchers studying how clusters use ICT to engage members – 14 June 2011
- Telephone conference with Paul Crack, Economic Development Officer, Leeton Shire NSW about a regional digital strategy and linkages to the Strengthening Riverina Irrigation Communities project – 6 June 2011
- Met with Joe Henry from UB TAFE regarding NBN skills and training programs – 14 June 2011
- Met with Keith Jackson from the Department of Planning and Community Development – 18 May 2011
- Telephone conference with Steve Pykett, South West Gippsland Regional Broadband Coordinator, Regional Backbone Blackspots Program - 24 March 2011
- Met with Justin Hanney, Deputy Secretary and Robyn Flemming from the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government - 21 March 2011
- Met with Stephanie Foster, Deputy Secretary and Simon Atkinson, Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government - 21 March 2011
- Telephone conference with Richard Milne from Loddon Mallee RDV - 11 March 2011
- Met with Kate Cornick from the Institute for a Broadband Enabled Society - 11 March 2011
- Telephone conference with Phillip Milbourne from Gippsland RDV - 2 March 2011
- Telephone conference with Jim Phillips from Barwon SW RDV - 1 March 2011
- Telephone conference with Sally Macdonald and Nerida Kerr from Hume RDV - 28 February 2011
- Met with Trent Williams from NBN Co - 28 February 2011
- Met with Robert Jones from Regional Development Victoria - 28 February 2011
- Met with Rob Byrne from Grampians RDV - 25 February 2011
- Met with Alastair Craw from Science and Technology Policy, Department of Business and Innovation and Trent Williams from NBN Co - 9 February 2011

Further information

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