

**Councillor Linda Scott**

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20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The Committee Secretary  
Select Committee on the National Broadband Network  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Re: Select Committee on the National Broadband Network**

I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following submission to the Select Committee on the National Broadband Network (NBN).

I write to you as a Councillor on the City of Sydney Council and to draw your attention to the following areas of concern:

- Construction of fibre to the premises (FTTP); and
- Undergrounding of cables.

The NBN is a significant infrastructure project that will increase Australia's competitiveness and productivity in a globalised economy. As Australia's global city, Sydney is well-positioned to take advantage of the NBN. The City of Sydney is home to a growing hub of digital and information technology firms that will benefit from the construction of high-speed, reliable broadband service provision, as well as being a centre for financial institutions that rely upon information technology to conduct domestic and international financial transactions.

The construction of the NBN provides an opportunity to significantly improve opportunities for innovation in the digital age across a range of industries and sectors including finance, health, education, and professional industries such as architecture and graphic design. I strongly support the construction of the NBN to act as an enabler of opportunity and innovation across a diverse range of industries and sectors.

**Construction of FTTP**

It is my view that Sydney would be best served by the continuation of the construction of FTTP to increase broadband capacity and foster a range of social, economic, and cultural benefits. As Australia's global city, improving broadband

*city of villages*

connectivity is crucial to the continued growth of Australia's economy. FTTP technology provides a broadband platform that will be able to meet current demand for Internet activity, as well as into the future with the development of the Internet. The construction of FTTP technology will provide a world-class broadband network to rival the current world leaders in broadband connectivity, ensuring Australia's economy can compete in the digital age. As Australia's global city, it is critical that FTTP technology be constructed in Sydney as part of the NBN to maintain a global advantage as a centre for economic, social, and cultural activity.

#### **Undergrounding of cables**

The construction of the NBN also provides the opportunity to underground existing power and communication cables. Undergrounding power and communications cables presents a wide range of benefits including reducing maintenance costs, transferring power more efficiently and effectively, and reducing the risk of damage to cables posed by weather phenomena. Moreover, it will allow the growth of trees in urban areas, improving sustainability and liveability in Sydney. The City of Sydney has encouraged the installation of underground cables where possible in urban renewal sites, and in 2012 commissioned a feasibility study to investigate the widespread undergrounding of cables as part of the roll-out of the NBN. It is my strong view that the undergrounding of existing electricity and communications cables be carried out as part of the NBN construction in the City of Sydney local government area.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and I look forward to the report of the Select Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Linda Scott**  
Labor Councillor  
City of Sydney

Date: 20/1/2014.