



CITY OF  
**TEA TREE GULLY**  
*Naturally Better*

24 February 2011

Mr. Andrew McGowan  
Inquiry Secretary  
Email: [ic.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ic.reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr. McGowan

**SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**NEW ENQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK**

I refer to your letter of 9 December 2010 inviting a submission on the views of the City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) on the National Broadband Network (NBN) before 25 February 2011.

Modbury is the regional centre of CTTG, a metropolitan city to the north east of Adelaide, South Australia. CTTG has a population of around 100,000, a workforce of around 51,000, some 6,000 registered businesses and an area of 93 square kilometres.

CTTG is delighted that Modbury was announced in July 2010 as being one of NBN's Second Release Sites (SRS) with 3,000 trial premises, and in January 2011 as being one of NBN's Points of Interconnect (POI) with approximately 72,657 premises to be served.

With this background, we wish to confirm that we are very supportive of the early implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network within the Modbury trial area and shortly thereafter within our entire City of some 36,000 premises in order that all of our residents might have an equal opportunity to benefit.

In particular, this submission will briefly present CTTG's views on the following points of the inquiry brief:

(a) the delivery of government services and programs

CTTG is very keen to investigate how the NBN high speed broadband network can best deliver local government services to its residents including digital social, community, health, aged care, infrastructure, utility, environment, business, information and library services.



Further, we are keen to be positioned as an early adopter of high speed broadband and to take on the role of developing and trialing the digital delivery of local government services using the NBN high speed broadband network.

We would welcome discussions with NBNCo Limited and the Australian Government Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy as to how this might be progressed and funded, and as to how CTTG might participate in any related community information or engagement strategies.

Considering that the announced Modbury POI can serve approximately 72,657 premises, we also see merit in working in cooperation with nearby metropolitan Councils should this be appropriate.

(b) achieving health outcomes

Modbury is a major health precinct with a public hospital, a new GP Plus Super Clinic and non-government sector health service providers.

CTTG also has a range of policies and programs to provide and support community health and aged care services for present and future older residents.

We are keen to see the NBN high speed broadband network be implemented as soon as possible in our entire City, and the surrounding region if possible, to allow for the most efficient and effective provision of digital health and aged care services to our residents with particular emphasis on services, which will allow older residents to continually access digital health and aged care services in their homes and / or in residential care.

(c) improving the educational resources and training available for teachers and students

CTTG is especially supportive of the implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network in that our City has eight (8) High Schools and a regional TAFE and is keen to participate in programs which encourage mathematics, science and technology curricula, and thereby improve employment opportunities for our City's youth (including some 27,600 students) particularly in defence, advanced manufacturing, clean technology and other knowledge intensive industries.

In particular, we see synergies in linking these educational resources to one another and to local and regional industries by means of the NBN high speed broadband network.



CTTG has a major library facility with 36.7 full-time equivalent staff and 1,000 – 1,500 visitors per day and is very keen to build upon our existing services to enable our library to promote the benefits of the high speed broadband network as a demonstration site. Ideally access to the NBN high speed broadband network would enable us to improve our digital literacy training and improve our social and information services to all of our residents, including students.

We are also about to open a Youth Innovation Centre for our City's youth and this could have an IT suite to serve as a demonstration site to again promote the benefits of the NBN high speed broadband network and to again use the NBN high speed broadband network to deliver new social and information services, including employment related services, to our City's youth.

We would again welcome discussions with NBNCo Limited and the Australian Government Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy as to how the above initiatives might be progressed and funded, and as to how CTTG might participate in any education or training related community information or engagement strategies.

(d) the management of Australia's built and natural resources and environmental sustainability

CTTG has community assets of \$1.95 bn. (in 2009/10) and sees the NBN high speed broadband network as the basis for the future implementation of intelligent digital infrastructure to manage and maintain these community assets.

We also have programs related to the collection and treatment of storm water and wastewater (involving the investment of some \$50m over the last 6 years) and see the NBN high speed broadband network as the basis for the future development and management of these programs by, for example, allowing the use of remote digital operating and monitoring systems.

It should also be noted that the current operating and monitoring systems of the storm water and wastewater facilities of CTTG are presently subject to black spots and outages due to inconsistent internet service and that these difficulties would be expected to be overcome with the implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network in this City of 93 square kilometres.

We also have 592 parks and reserves and see the NBN high speed broadband network as the basis for managing their future sustainability by, for example, allowing the use of remote digital systems to control and monitor efficient water use.



(e) impacting regional economic growth and employment opportunities

CTTG's Draft Strategic Plan 2011-2015 includes the strategic objective to achieve "sound business and employment opportunities through innovative economic development" and includes the following strategic directions:

- Capitalise on opportunities created by the NBN high speed broadband network
- Recognise complementary relationships between our local economy and other regions
- Enhance the City's role in promoting and supporting sound business and employment opportunities
- Identify opportunities to enhance existing and create new specialised business clusters in the City
- Encourage and support low-impact, home-based and small business and business incubation
- Encourage innovative and emerging industries
- Accommodate emerging trends in the retail and commercial and industrial sectors

It can therefore be appreciated that the implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network in our entire City will contribute markedly to the abovementioned strategic objective.

(f) Impacting business efficiencies and revenues, particularly for small and medium business, and Australia's export market

Further to our comments at (e) above, it is to be noted that CTTG has some 6,000 registered businesses and that 4125 of these are understood to be home-based businesses.

At present we receive ongoing complaints from these home-based businesses that they are in black spots or otherwise receive inconsistent internet service.

These home-based businesses have reported that they see the implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network in our entire City as the key to continuing and growing their businesses and to contributing to the CTTG local economy.

(g) interaction with research and development and related innovation investments

CTTG has little in the way of research and development and related innovation investments within our City.



It is therefore necessary for CTTG business and other organizations (for example, health care and social assistance, education and training, defence, advanced manufacturing, clean technology and other knowledge intensive industries) to work with regional or other external research and development and related innovation investments and this will be facilitated by the implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network in our City.

(h) facilitating community and social benefits

Further to our comments at (a), (b), (c), and (d) above, CTTG sees the implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network as integral to facilitating community and social benefits to our City which has health care and social assistance and education and training as two of our three largest industries.

(i) the optimal capacity and technological requirements of a network to deliver these outcomes

CTTG is not currently in a position to prescribe the optimal capacity and technological requirements of a network to deliver these outcomes but we can say that at present we receive ongoing complaints from residents that they are in black spots or otherwise receive inconsistent internet service.

With this background we are very supportive of the early implementation of the NBN high speed broadband network within our entire City.

CTTG has welcomed the opportunity to provide a submission on our views on the National Broadband Network and it might be noted that we provided a public report on the Enquiry to our Council and that this was then reported upon in the local Messenger newspaper on 9 February 2011.

We would welcome any further opportunity to provide additional information should this be helpful to the enquiry.

Yours sincerely

R J Carmichael  
Manager, Business & Economic Development  
City of Tea Tree Gully