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25 February 2011



ATTENTION:

Mr Andrew McGowan
Inquiry Secretary
Inquiry Into The National Broadband Network
House Of Representatives Standing Committee On Infrastructure And Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McGowan

**SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF THE
NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK**

In response to your invitation to make a submission to the inquiry in regard to the capacity of the National Broadband Network, attached is a document representing the views of Dubbo City Council.

Yours faithfully

Mark Riley
General Manager

DUBBO CITY COUNCIL NBN SUBMISSION



Dubbo is a vibrant regional city that provides a service centre for health, education, retail and industry that covers over one third of Australia's most populated state.

Not only would the National Broadband Network NBN in Dubbo provide closer access for the 7% of Australia not covered in the fibre footprint, but the City is ready and waiting for such development. Dubbo has the facilities and the services already operating to make installation and implementation of the NBN easy.

To ensure that the construction of the NBN is as seamless as possible, Dubbo City Council offers its full cooperation and is willing to discuss all aspects under its control, including public relations support and provision of temporary office space.

Dubbo City Council supports the provision of NBN through regional Australia given the positive effect that its installation will have on economic, health and social opportunities in the city of Dubbo and surrounds. This submission focuses on the key areas of health, education, business and social benefits.

For more information please contact Council's Mayor or myself.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Riley'.

Mark Riley

Dubbo City Council
General Manager



DUBBO MAYOR
Allan Smith



GENERAL MANAGER
DUBBO CITY COUNCIL
Mark Riley

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DUBBO CITY COUNCIL NBN SUBMISSION



Achieving health outcomes:

The health service sector is the second highest employer in Dubbo. This is not surprising when the Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) is geographically the largest Area Health Service in NSW, covering more than 55% of the State.

GWAHS services a population of some 295,000 people with an average 8% Aboriginal population. The range of services offered and the diversity of landscape serves to make GWAHS a dynamic and unique organisation where the top priority of all staff is the provision of the highest quality health care to their communities.

Speciality services provided by GWAHS at the Dubbo Base Hospital include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| > Medicine (General) | > Surgery (General) |
| > Paediatrics | > Orthopaedics |
| > Nephrology | > Vascular |
| > Oncology/Haematology | > Urology |
| > Cardiology | > ENT |
| > Gastroenterology | > Ophthalmology |
| > Obstetrics & Gynaecology | > Trauma |
| > Psychiatry | > Intensive Care |
| > Emergency | > Radiology & Pathology |

Introduction of the NBN would enable patients in Dubbo to access health care, including tele-medicine conferencing for specialist services such as ophthalmology. These services with the aid of the NBN could be accessed from practitioners outside the city and provide a service to the Dubbo Hospital equal to that anywhere in the world.

Improving the educational resources and training available for teachers and students:

Dubbo has four tertiary and vocational education institutions and the City services the higher education of the local market, plus interstate, national and international students.

The City is home to Charles Sturt University, School of Rural Health (The University of Sydney), TAFE NSW Western Institute and Western College.

Dubbo has 18 schools including Dubbo School of Distance Education which provides education to over 1000 students in outback NSW through satellite connections.

Dubbo School of Distance Education is the only secondary distance school west of Sydney and provides education to rural and remote students across NSW and some parts of QLD.

In 2006, 32.9%* of the City was engaged in some sort of study and 29.4%* of regional NSW in that same year was also studying. It is safe to suggest that a high proportion of these people utilise the services provided by the education systems in Dubbo.

Dubbo is dedicated to the education of the indigenous population and according to Dubbo College Senior Campus and the Board of Studies, the Senior Campus has the highest rate of indigenous students completing their HSC studies in NSW. With the help of the NBN, Dubbo schools can build on this achievement and extend the benefits of education to an even wider indigenous community.

The bandwidth and synchronous nature of the NBN would make online lectures and tutorials a real possibility increasing subject choice and availability to Dubbo secondary and tertiary students.

DUBBO CITY COUNCIL NBN SUBMISSION



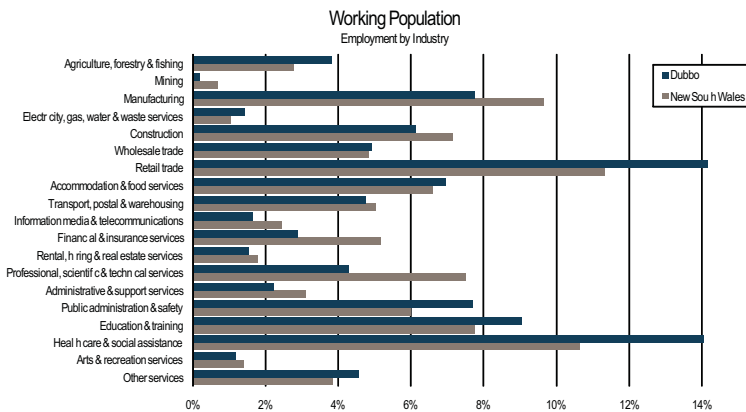
Impacting regional economic growth and employment opportunities:

Based on the estimated level of internet connection of industry groups in Dubbo, businesses are set to save an estimated \$12,894,000 per year under the NBN. This equates to at least \$24M flowing back into the local economy, creating jobs and overall regional growth.

Percentage of businesses affected	Average annual business savings under the NBN across the City	Annual flow on spending back into the Dubbo economy
38%	\$798,000	\$1,596,000
41%	\$10,332,000	\$20,664,000
21%	\$1,764,000	\$3,528,000

Estimates gathered by Malcolm Reid of local service provider Anittel

The bandwidth provided by the NBN will open up an opportunity for businesses to relocate their existing IT server and storage infrastructure from Sydney to Dubbo. The NBN also provides the option to develop commercial data centres for the hosting of corporate IT infrastructure. This development would not only grow the local economy through the construction and development of new business, it would also provide local jobs, and grow the population through attracting and retaining new employees to Dubbo.



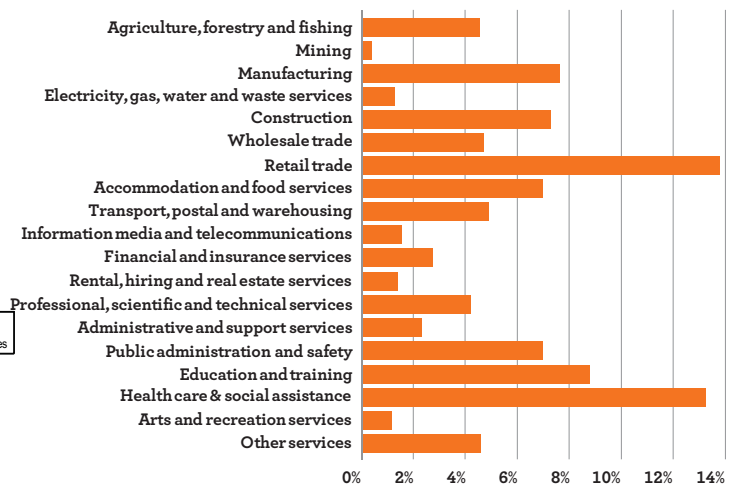
Source: ABS 2006 Census

Impacting business efficiencies and revenues, particularly for small and medium business, and Australia's export market:

Dubbo is home to over 3500 business with 94.7%* of the labour force employed in full or part-time work.

The City's workforce represents a wide cross section of industries and occupations. The largest industries are the retail and health care sectors. Through the NBN both these industries would not only have the potential to operate at a higher level but also employ a greater number of people.

With the mining industry taking special interest in the Dubbo area, this employment sector is expected to rise in the coming years. The mineral processing facility proposed for Toongi in the Dubbo area, will produce a suite of rare metal products which are used in emerging 'green technologies'. The NBN will connect this project to service technicians and customers in Europe, Japan, North America and China.

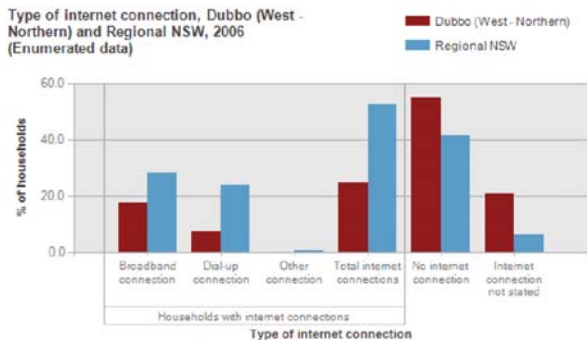


DUBBO CITY COUNCIL NBN SUBMISSION



Facilitating community and social benefits:

One in two people are connected to the internet in some capacity from their homes in Dubbo. The introduction of the NBN has the real potential to lift those numbers, providing high level service at a lower fee for students, families and businesses alike.



With an indigenous population of approximately 10% Dubbo is a City rich in cultural heritage. Providing education and employment opportunities to our indigenous population is dependant on the maintenance of our education and business sectors. Both these industries would greatly benefit from the NBN.

Whilst the city of Dubbo is home to in excess of 40,000 people, it is well known as a service hub for over 120,000 and over 200,000 for health care. The services available in the City reach a population much greater than the LGA area and as such benefit areas often classified as rural and remote with services and skills of a metropolitan level.

The NBN would provide the opportunity for delivery of cultural service such as online art gallery and museum collection education and promotion.