

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

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Submission 5

13 January 2011

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| Submission No: | 005 |
| Date Received: | 17/1/2011 |
| Secretary: | <i>ML</i> |



Mr A McGowan
 Inquiry Secretary
 Standing Committee on Infrastructure & Communications
 PO Box 6021
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your Ref:
 Our Ref: 9705762

Dear Mr McGowan

New Inquiry into the National Broadband Network

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2010, regarding the new inquiry into the National Broadband Network, and seeking input from our Council.

The business and suburban areas of The Hills Shire are adequately serviced with multiple Internet Service Providers (ISPs) delivering a competitive broadband service within these areas, however, the more rural areas of the Shire do not have reliable access to broadband internet services from multiple ISPs. These areas would benefit from the roll out of the National Broadband Network as this would provide high speed access to the internet for these rural and semi-rural communities and enable access to Government and other services which are not practically available via dial-up services.

Areas that can only be serviced by the National Broadband Network and where completion is not reasonably available should not be cost disadvantaged due to the higher costs of providing services and lack of competition. Access to Internet services should be considered an access and equity community issue and therefore pricing should be set at a similar level to where Internet service competition is available so as not to unreasonably prevent access to Government and other Internet services

If you require any further information you can contact _____

Yours faithfully

Mark Stanton
GROUP MANAGER - CUSTOMER SERVICES