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24 February 2011

Doc: D11/9319

Mr Andrew McGowan
Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
lc.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr McGowan

NEW INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

The Town of Kwinana is a growth municipality situated on the southern fringe of the Perth metropolitan area. Considering the current population boom being experienced, 27% increase in population over the last 5 years, the Town is considerably under serviced by many government departments. The NBN could provide potential for residents to gain access to vital services like Medicare and Centrelink remotely from within their own home.

Easily accessible and affordable broadband will also mean there is the capacity for more people to access remote consultations with professionals in many varied fields including paramedical, counselling and schooling. For example a teenage mother who has had to drop out of school could have fast access to child health nurses, counsellors, and online remote schooling programs that would help further their options to enter tertiary education and/or the workforce at a later stage.

The Town of Kwinana library currently offers free access to the Your Tutor program. If affordable, fast broadband was available, there would be the potential to roll this out into the homes of all school aged children in the area. The NBN would also provide the opportunity for additional training opportunities to be accessed in the region, potentially helping to lower the high unemployment rate currently being experienced in the area (approximately 11%).

A growing issue facing our nation as a whole is the ageing population and the increasing problem of social isolation. The National Broadband Network would provide opportunities for those who are socially isolated to network both online and socially on an ongoing basis.

Yours sincerely

Carol Adams
Mayor

Attachments: 1. Article titled 'Internet debacle creates confusion' from the Sound Telegraph, February 16, 2011.

Internet debacle creates confusion

By ANITA McINNES

A LEDA couple says many residents in their housing estate are unable to get faster internet connections because there are no ports available at the Medina exchange.

Michael and Tammy Williams said the intended roll-out of the National Broadband Network could also exacerbate the problem because people might see no point in getting ADSL when NBN was on the way.

Although Mandurah is one of 19 sites listed for the next stage of the NBN roll-out, the couple said they suspected Kwinana would not be high on the priority list and it could take a decade to get to their area.

The couple said they first tried to get an ADSL connection with Inet when they moved into their new home in The Village at Wellard at the end of February last year.

"But they were unable to connect us (and then) after numerous phone calls to Telstra we were told we just couldn't get ADSL connection," Mr Williams said.

After contacting the developers for The Village at Wellard, who said there was no problem with the cabling to the pit, they contacted Brand MHR Gary Gray's office, which contacted Telstra on their behalf.

Telstra then said there were no

plans to upgrade the exchange and any upgrade would have to be requested by Kwinana Town Council.

According to the couple, the council is advising residents having problems getting faster internet connections to contact their Federal Member of Parliament as well.

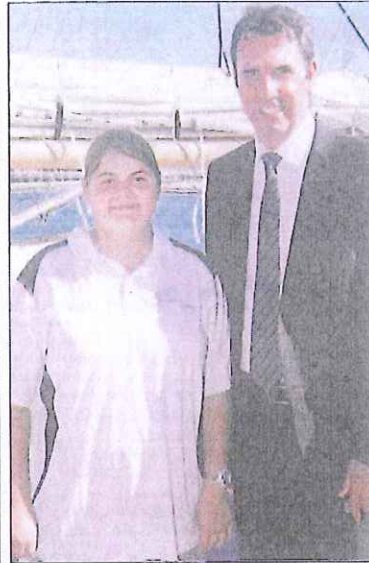
A Telstra spokesman said the company would only invest in more ADSL ports in the area when the capital investment made commercial sense.

He said in areas where ADSL was not available, customers could obtain broadband through a Next G wireless data connection.

Mr Gray could not say when he expected the roll-out to start in Kwinana, but said it was critical to get it right before committing big amounts of "public money to what will be the single largest nation-building infrastructure project in Australian history".

Mr Williams said with Kwinana supposedly having the third-highest council rates in the metropolitan area, something as basic as internet access with a new or existing home was not too much to ask.

Voyage on the high seas beckons teen



Leda teenager Angelika Dark is congratulated by Indigenous Affairs Minister Peter Collier as she prepares to set sail on the Leeuwin II.

LEDA teenager Angelika Dark has set sail alongside 12 other young Aboriginal leaders on board Australia's Leeuwin II for a voyage of self-discovery and personal development.

The trip is the first of three to be coordinated by the Indigenous Affairs Department.

At the launch, Indigenous Affairs Minister Peter Collier congratulated those selected for the seven-day voyage.

"The 13 young people selected for this journey have already been identified as leaders — or potential leaders — within their communities," he said.

"The purpose of this program is to ensure that they are supported in their leadership aspirations, through the development of their communication skills, the understanding of teamwork and recognising the importance of a strong sense of community."

Mr Collier said he looked forward to the young people returning to their communities to share their experiences and encourage the development of their peers.

Have say about marina... fast

THE Opposition has accused the State Government of "stifling the opinions that need to be heard" by allowing only a two-week public comment period for the Mangles Bay Marina tourism precinct.

Shadow environment spokeswoman Sally Talbot said two weeks for public comment was not long enough given the level of concern about environmental issues expressed by the community and experts.

However, Environment Minister Bill Marmion said two weeks was standard for a scoping document.

Mr Marmion said as part of the environmental impact assessment process, the proponents were

required to prepare two documents for public review.

"The first of these, the draft Environmental Scoping Document, is available for a two-week public comment period (finishing on February 21)," he said.

He said stakeholders were notified of the comment period, which was also advertised in The West Australian and on the EPA's website.

"There will also be a further 10-week public comment period on the public environmental review (once) it is approved for release by the EPA," Mr Marmion said.

The public environmental review is expected to be released mid-year.

Drugs charges after vehicle stop

A MEDINA man is set to face Rockingham Magistrate's Court on charges of possessing amphetamines with intent to sell or supply after police stopped his vehicle in the early hours of February 8.

The man was driving along Grand

Ocean Boulevard in Port Kennedy about 3.40am when he was stopped.

After a vehicle search, it is alleged that police found 8 grams of amphetamines and a quantity of cash.

Released on bail, he is due to appear in court on March 1.

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Flare injures submariner

A CREW member who suffered minor injuries when a flare was accidentally activated on board HMAS Waller was taken to Royal Perth Hospital after being treated by medics on board the submarine.

A Defence Department spokesman said an investigation was under way so limited information was available.

He said the accident happened on Wednesday night and resulted in the submarine sustaining only superficial damage, so it was able to remain at sea before returning to base for a short period on Thursday morning.

It had just completed an anti-submarine exercise with HMAS Toowoomba and Sirius off Fremantle when the accident happened.

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