



ABN 46 448 426 394

27 April 2011

Ms S. L. Bird MP  
Member for Cunningham  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Bird

**Re: NBN**

While there has been much debate on the cost of the National Broadband Network, there seems to be little doubt about the technological benefits of Fibre Optic and what it could mean for the nation into the future. Indeed, in our remote part of Australia it has the real potential to close the age old dilemma posed by long distance and travel.

In saying this I certainly appreciate it is not possible to connect all of Australia's widely dispersed communities and that other technologies such as wireless will be the only other effective option. With respect, I do however query some substantial gaps in the rollout and why some communities will be denied access to this technology despite being in immediate proximity to the NBN Cable.

In our particular case Julia Creek is the Administrative Centre for the McKinlay Shire and is a community of 500 people. The community has now stabilised after years of population decline and in reflection of this the Shire Council is in the process of developing a new Semi Industrial and part Residential Sub Division to expand the Town and to match proven demand and growth. Julia Creek has a GP, Hospital, State School and a full complement of Emergency Services.

The Town itself sits squarely astride the major road and rail link between Townsville and Mount Isa in North West Queensland. The Town sits right over the NBN Cable but will not be connected to it.

To access the data transfer speeds offered by fibre would be a wonderful opportunity for remote video consulting for the GP and Hospital, and of highly significant benefit to the education of our students. It would assist greatly in the education and capacity development of our pastoral sector through real-time live streaming video training and consultation.

We will continue to explore any avenue to become connected to the Fibre Optic Network but I wanted to just let you know that the infrastructure is running underneath several keen and eager small communities who would benefit enormously from connection in order to better deliver services. While this is happening however, a number of significantly smaller communities with even smaller populations are curiously slated for connection (e.g. - Town of 1770 - Pop 74).

I appreciate you are extraordinarily busy and I do appreciate your time but I did want to at least advise that a bench top selection of sites for connection may not deliver the best outcomes for this amazing technology or significant parts of rural Australia who could benefit enormously from it.

Thank you again for your time.  
Yours sincerely

Cr. Paul Woodhouse  
Mayor

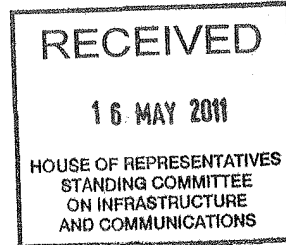
# McKINLAY SHIRE COUNCIL

CIVIC CENTRE, JULIA CREEK

**Supplementary Submission 31.1**  
**Date received: 16./05/2011**

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Mayor's Office

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