



From the Mayor's Office
Melva E Hobson
Mayor of Redland City

Submission No. 7



15 March 2012

Our Ref: MH:fp:cy
DW:
Contact: Mayor's Office
3829 8235

Committee Secretary
Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Parliament of Australia
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

RE: National Broadband Network Rollout

We would like to bring to your attention the urgent need for prioritising the rollout of the National Broadband Network to North Stradbroke Island and the Southern Moreton Bay (Macleay, Russell, Karragarra and Lamb) Islands. We note that these Islands are not listed in the current roll out program.

These Island communities, part of the Redland City Council Local Government Area, are subject to significant location driven disadvantage, being reliant on expensive ferries and barges for access to the mainland. High levels of social and economic disadvantage are prevalent in these Island communities, including high levels of rental stress, unemployment and welfare dependency.

During the last several years Redland City Council has been working with all levels of government seeking solutions to the issues that impact the Islands. The provision of reliable high speed broadband to the Islands is a lifeline that has been identified through a number of planning processes and endorsed by Council. High speed broadband will enhance the development of locally based businesses on the Islands, open up new business and opportunities and go some way to addressing the locational disadvantage that is unique in South East Queensland.

To this end we are requesting that the rollout of the NBN to North Stradbroke Island and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands be prioritised in the upcoming three year roll out plan.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Melva E. Hobson PSM
Mayor of Redland City

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