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23 February 2011

Andrew McGowan  
Inquiry Secretary  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications  
PO Box 6021,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Andrew,

**Re: Submission by Warringah Council on the New Inquiry into the National Broadband Network**

Warringah Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute its views on the National Broadband Network, which it considers has the overall potential to deliver much needed communications infrastructure locally and regionally, with significant sustainable economic, as well as social benefits to the community.

Council's support for the National Broadband Network and for the capacity of the roll out to contribute locally and regionally is outlined in relation to the specific points below:-

a) The delivery of Government services and programs:

The said broadband services will create opportunities for improved service within the local government and Northern beaches area by promoting and enhancing e-services. This would enable the Council to improve its level of efficiency while minimising costs due to reduced overhead costs and effective delivery.

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

The improved connectivity would directly benefit educational and training resources for students and teachers. This will have significant positive impacts such as, further enhancing education and qualification levels, improving the accessibility to resources and by helping to reduce current levels of inequalities in the community. NBN will greatly contribute to a wider influence of tertiary educational institutions and may help to encourage local qualified youth, to live and work on the Northern Beaches.

c) Impacting regional economic growth and employment opportunities:

As there is a significant focus on economic development in the Warringah Local Government area, the Council expects the NBN to further support and enhance future development and opportunities especially in terms of job generation, new business investment and attraction. The NBN could potentially help promote growth in home-based and micro businesses and also reduce commuter costs and local traffic movements / congestion throughout the LGA.

**Submission 056**  
**Date received: 24/02/2011**

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

The increased accessibility for companies, greater opportunity for export, improved efficiencies and better access to on-line services are some of the benefits that would boost the local and regional economies, especially for small to medium enterprises. The council expects this to be a major advantage in completing many of its own business development - related initiatives contained in the Strategic Community Plan and overall growth of the SHOROC region.

- e) Facilitating community and social benefits:

The Council believes the implementation of the NBN would be of overall benefit to the community, not only from an economic point of view. There are major social benefits relating to education and community connectivity building and usage for individuals and groups, to help optimise well-being, social inclusion, independence and neighbourhood awareness. Furthermore, Warringah council will ensure that our assets (roads, footpaths, street trees etc.) are not adversely impacted during the roll-out.

The National Broadband Network, together with other critical infrastructure such as, better public transport, roads and health services will help to ensure a more liveable, productive and accessible local government area for future generations and will support Sydney's national role as a Global City.

Yours faithfully

Michael Regan  
**Mayor of Warringah**

