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Submission: National Broadband Network Inquiry
25 February 2011



Growing our Region - shaping a positive future



Local Government Partners
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council | District Council of Barunga West
District Council of Mount Remarkable | Northern Areas Council
District Council of Peterborough | Wakefield Regional Council
District Council of Yorke Peninsula | Regional Council of Goyder
District Council of the Copper Coast | Port Pirie Regional Council
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton

Response to the inquiry into the National Broadband Network

Thankyou for the invitation to contribute to the inquiry into the National Broadband Network, Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North has prepared the enclosed submission, reflecting on the impact the National Broadband Network will have in our region of South Australia.

The contents of this submission provide background on the role of Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North in relation to telecommunications infrastructure and address the key points outlined below.

Key points

- a) The National Broadband Network will provide regional residents with greater access to government information, services and programs. It will provide the communication infrastructure required to coordinate the governments' emergency response efforts across the region. The National Broadband Network will improve the efficient delivery of government services and programs.
- b) The National Broadband Network will provide the infrastructure necessary for health professionals to provide ongoing services for regional patients.
- c) Improvements in broadband coverage and quality will increase the access to online courses and resources essential for rural and regional teachers and students.
- d) The National Broadband Network will reduce the pressure on the built town infrastructure and the environment.
- e) The National Broadband Network is anticipated to remove one of the barriers for economic growth in the Yorke and Mid North.
- f) The National Broadband Network is anticipated to remove the inefficiencies in communication that regional businesses currently experience.
- g) The National Broadband Network will provide greater social equity between regional and urban areas.

h) Further provision of optical fibre and next generation wireless would be supported.

It has been the experience of regional communities and in particular those that have been conversant with satellite services that regardless of speed will experience latency issues and that NBN Co. should maximise the use of optical fibre and next generation wireless in all circumstances.

Background

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North (RDA YMN) is an incorporated association governed by a board of community members. The objective of Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North as defined by the constitution is:

- To promote and support the policies, strategic plans and priorities of the Commonwealth, the State Government and the Local Government Bodies that facilitate community economic development outcomes in the Region.
- To provide services and undertake projects that facilitate community economic development outcomes in the Region that are consistent with the policies, strategic plans and priorities of the Commonwealth, the State Government and the Local Government Bodies.

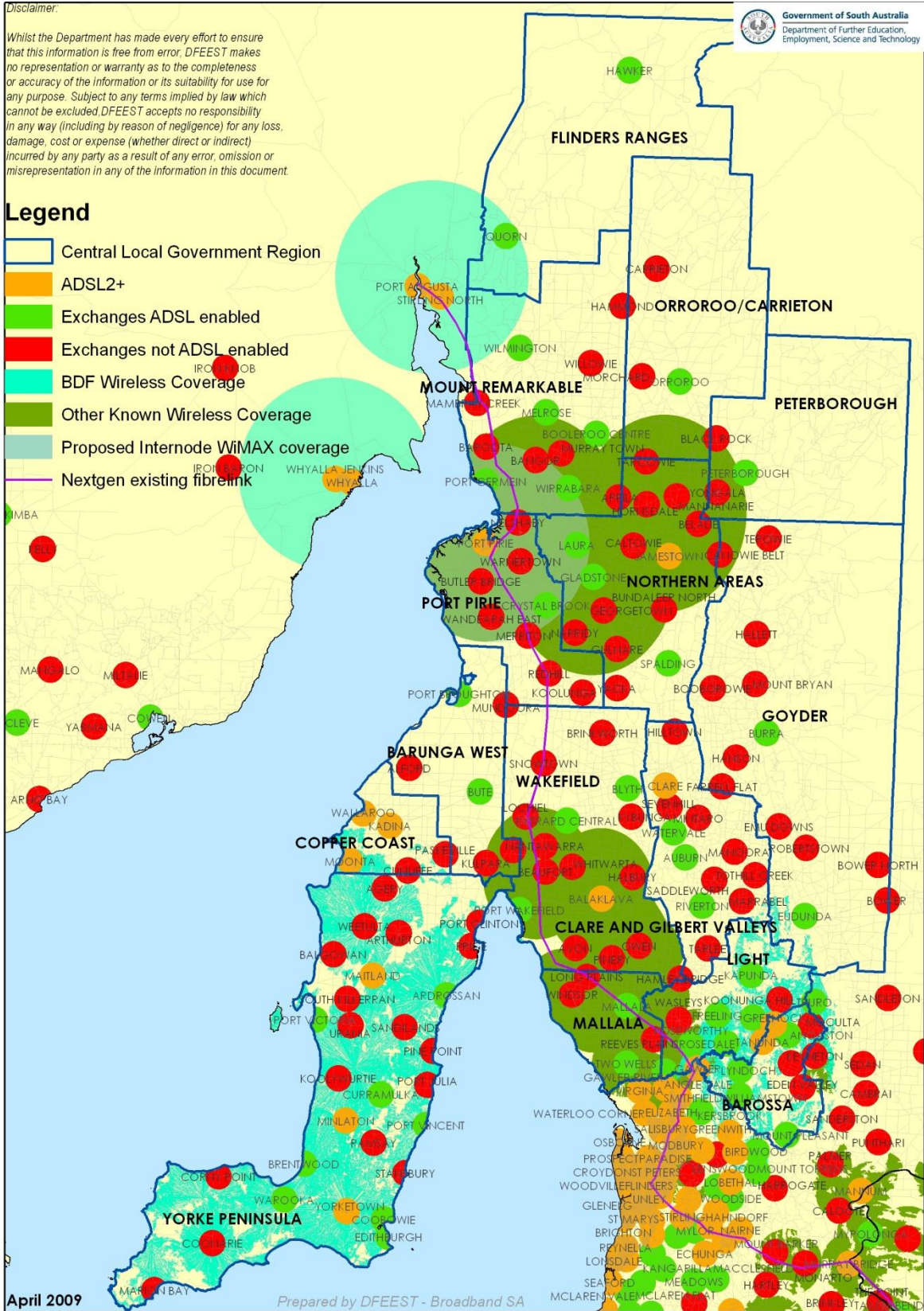
In developing the Regional Roadmap, RDA YMN identified access to broadband services as one of eight key priorities to facilitate community and economic development outcomes in the region. RDA YMN therefore would like to contribute to the inquiry into the National Broadband Network.

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North is a rural region of South Australia that covers eleven local government areas including:

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	District Council of Barunga West	District Council of Copper Coast
District Council of Mount Remarkable	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	District Council of Peterborough
District Council of Yorke Peninsula	Northern Areas Council	Port Pirie Regional Council
Regional Council of Goyder	Wakefield Regional Council	

The population of the region has been steadily increasing since 2001 with the current population estimated to be 73 259 people. The main centres of population are located in Port Pirie (13,206), Kadina (4026), Moonta (3,350), Clare (3,063) and Wallaroo (3,053). Towns such as Peterborough, Balaklava, Crystal Brook, Jamestown, Ardrossan and Maitland have populations between one and two thousand people. The bulk of the regions population, some 26,076 people are located outside of main service centres, in smaller communities under one thousand people. A further 3,233 are based rurally outside of any defined township. The highly dispersed nature of the population has made it difficult to attract telecommunication carriers to provide broadband services across the region.

Existing broadband coverage in the Central Local Government Region of South Australia.



Difficulties attracting telecommunications providers to regional areas

The Central Local Government Region of SA conducted a demand aggregation of seven Councils within the Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North Region in 2005 coordinating a public call for expressions of interest to provide broadband services or infrastructure to the Region. Three companies responded to the expression of interest however the selected provider withdrew their interest following the withdrawal of Broadband Connect Funding.

In 2009 a new call for expressions of interest that focussed on a restricted number of Council areas, was advertised in the Advertiser, the Australian and all local papers. A copy of the Expression of Interest was sent by direct email to all registered providers under the Australian Broadband Guarantee system and several companies were approached directly to encourage interest. Three companies registered their interest however their proposals were not deemed suitable following technical evaluation.

On 19 April 2010 it was decided the previous expression of interest process should be abandoned and a select tender process would be undertaken. One of the two companies that submitted tenders, withdrew from the process following the announcement that Telstra Next G services would be considered a metro comparable service on 12 May 2010. With the support of Australian t and State Government funding Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North have developed a public private partnership to provide 12 MGB/s Wimax services across three local government areas across the mid north of South Australia.

This lengthy process highlights the difficulty that regional and rural areas have in developing metro-comparable broadband infrastructure and services. Government support is required to address this market failure.

The National Broadband Network

- a) Delivery of government services and programs

The National Broadband Network will provide regional residents with greater access to government information, services and programs.

Services such as CentreLink, Medicare and Service SA are restricted to the major population centres for the region, Port Pirie and Kadina with some restricted services provided in Clare. Residents in towns such as Peterborough travel 200km to access these services, so the simple task of registering a car, requires one day off work, \$150 to travel to Port Pirie in addition to the registration fee. With improved broadband services provided by the National Broadband Network, Peterborough residents will be able to register their vehicles on line, any time of the day or night.

The National Broadband Network will improve communication essential for the coordination of emergency response efforts.

The lack of high quality, fast dedicated broadband services in the Yorke and Mid North, hamper emergency response efforts, as agencies in different locations find it difficult to communicate and share timely information and data. There has been failure of communication equipment during emergency situations.

The National Broadband Network will improve the efficient delivery of government services and programs.

The District Council of Yorke Peninsula has experienced the advantages of increased efficiency in government services through improvement of broadband services across the Yorke Peninsula. Broadbanding the Yorke was an Australian and State Government funded project that provided 12MGB/s using WiMAX services. "The reason council chose a broadband connection in favour of dial-up is that given the size of our council area we found that by having dial-up at one location then sending that out to our other offices it just made the whole network solution for our council area totally unworkable so we needed a fast broadband connection. Staff were just wasting so much time with dial-up that it was really affecting the productivity of our whole council.

The council has a number of uses for broadband in this area, most importantly is that we use it to retrieve and store information in our database which is then quickly accessible from all other locations, obviously our email is very important to us and there's a number of other benefits such as quick access to the internet to retrieve information and also the added features of Voice Over IP which we use quite extensively throughout our area."

b) Achieving health outcomes

The National Broadband Network will provide the infrastructure necessary for health professionals to provide ongoing services for regional patients.

Regional communities such as the Yorke and Mid North have aging populations that require access to high quality health services. Unfortunately many regional areas including the Yorke and Mid North are not able to provide these services as the cost of maintaining the appropriate infrastructure and staff is prohibitive. It is also difficult to attract, train and retain skilled health professionals in regional areas. As the National E Health Strategy outlines;

The challenges and issues facing the Australian health care sector will not be solved by doing more of the same, particularly given the limited nature of available human and financial resources. There is a widespread recognition within the sector that better use of information technology should play a critical enabling role in implementing national health care reform and policy agendas and improving the efficiency, safety and ultimately the sustainability of the Australian health care system.

To ensure regional areas can use information technology to access more centralised health services, they require the telecommunications infrastructure proposed under the National Broadband Network.

Currently more than 10, 000 patients travel from the Yorke and Mid North region to Adelaide for specialist medical appointments every year. This will increase significantly if the region is not able to access health information and services through the use of information technology due to the lack of broadband infrastructure.

- c) Improving the educational resources and training available for teachers and students

Improvements in broadband coverage, speed and quality will increase the access to online courses and resources essential for rural and regional teachers and students.

The 2006 Census data shows that the Yorke and Mid North has one of the lowest percentages of population with post school qualifications in South Australia. One of the barriers to further education and training identified in the region is the restricted access to training facilities and resources.

There are twenty schools, three TAFE facilities and no tertiary education facilities, in the Yorke and Mid North. Students wishing to gain higher education leave the region, those that can not afford to leave the region have a limited choice of courses at the Regional TAFE. TAFE SA provide a number of distance education courses, many of which are conducted by video conferencing. To participate in the course, students require access to fast, reliable and high quality broadband, this currently excludes 26 076 people in our region.

There are twenty libraries in the Yorke and Mid North these libraries have minimal resources, so the topics and depth of information they contain is limited. High speed broadband enables regional communities' access to a world of information, it also allows students access to a greater variety of courses and provides flexible study options that enable them to remain in the region.

As the Digital Education Revolution outlines, the education system into the future will have a greater focus on online curriculum tools and resources. To ensure regional communities are not left behind regional areas require the infrastructure to support high speed broadband.

- d) Management of Australia's built and natural resources and environmental sustainability

The National Broadband Network will reduce the pressure on the built town infrastructure and the environment.

High quality broadband infrastructure enables people to work remotely from their homes, multiple office sites or out in the field. This alleviates the pressure on major towns and cities, to provide infrastructure that houses offices, transports workers to and from work, thus reducing the number of cars on the road and pollutants that are produced.

In the Yorke and Mid the regional road use would reduce, as residents access government services, courses and health services either from their own home, or their local town.

e) Impacting regional economic growth and employment opportunities

The National Broadband Network is anticipated to remove one of the barriers for economic growth in the Yorke and Mid North.

Broadband infrastructure is essential for regional economic growth as Broadbanding the Yorke Peninsula highlights. Following the successful implementation of the community driven project, the economic benefit to the region over five years was evaluated to be \$21.4 million.

One of the largest employers in the Yorke and Mid North region, established an abattoir at Port Wakefield, employing over 200 people. An integral component of the site development was the provision of WiMAX broadband services. This enabled Primo to install state of the art machinery that is monitored and maintained online in Germany.

f) Impacting business efficiencies and revenues particularly for small and medium business and Australia's export market

The National Broadband Network is anticipated to remove the inefficiencies in communication that regional businesses currently experience.

To maintain communication between office sites, along the supply chain and with customers, high quality broadband services are essential. A major wine company in the Clare Valley with offices in Clare and Sydney are hampered by inefficiencies in accessing company records, communicating with distributors on the road and tracking orders and sales. With the push into online marketing, regional companies currently experience disadvantage in accessing clients here and abroad.

- g) Interaction with research and development and related innovation investments

(Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North will not be providing any comments relating to this point).

- h) Facilitating community and social benefits

The National Broadband Network will provide greater social equity between regional and urban areas.

The greatest benefit that will be provided by the National Broadband Network, extension to small towns, is the connection between communities and the reduction in isolation of individuals.

Improved access to broadband services in regional areas will allow youth to study, socialise, shop and keep pace with their generational counterparts in the city, watching the latest movies, listening to the latest music and playing the latest online games.

Retirees often move closer to their children and grandchildren; however with improved skype, photo sharing and video linkages, they are able to maintain contact with their family without leaving their regional community.

- i) Optimal capacity and technical requirements of a network to deliver these outcomes

Further provision of optical fibre and next generation wireless would be supported.

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North is pleased that 22 towns across the region will receive optical fibre, however we would encourage the extension of Wimax and wireless coverage across the region. There are key centres across the Southern Flinders and Mid North including Booleroo Centre, Orroroo, Melrose which will not be covered optical fibre or wireless coverage. These town are tourism and agricultural service centres. While we understand the fibre optic networks are based around optic fibre backbone we would like to encourage the Australian Government and NBN Co to extend the WiMax and Wireless coverage areas as the infrastructure and the scalability is preferable to Satellite coverage.

Even if the next generation Satellite with higher speeds are feasible the inherent latency issues with Satellite coverage are not the preferable or desirable long term infrastructure for region centres. In particular the growth of the digital economy will be greatly enhanced by access VOIP applications which traditionally are unreliable at best using Satellite coverage. The experience of many satellite users is that the service is unreliable, latency effects the use of applications necessary for the digital economy including VOIP experience inherent difficulties and regular drop outs. Satellite should be a last resort option only and not a solution where regional towns and agriculture service centres exist, a situation which impacts on considerable areas of the Yorke and Mid North in the current NBN proposal.



Submission Information

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Submission	National Broadband Network Inquiry	25 February 2011	Saideh Kent Economic Development Officer	

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Broken Hill to Adelaide Fibre Optic Backhaul

BUSINESS CASE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIBRE OPTIC BACKHAUL- AUGUST 2009



Frome Electorate Office

Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome



Central
Local Government Region of South Australia
Incorporated under provisions of the Local Government Act



BAROSSA & LIGHT
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC.



MID NORTH REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC
fostering economic development in our region



ROWAN RAMSEY MP
Member for Grey



CLARE & GILBERT VALLEYS COUNCIL



LIGHT
REGIONAL
COUNCIL



Broken Hill to Adelaide Fibre Optic Backhaul
BUSINESS CASE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIBRE OPTIC
BACKHAUL- AUGUST 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Please find enclosed a copy of the business case and letter of supports from South Australian stakeholders in relation to the construction of fibre optic backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide as part of the first round priorities for the Regional Backbone Blackspots initiative by the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Yours sincerely

Anita Crisp
Executive Officer
Central Local Government Region
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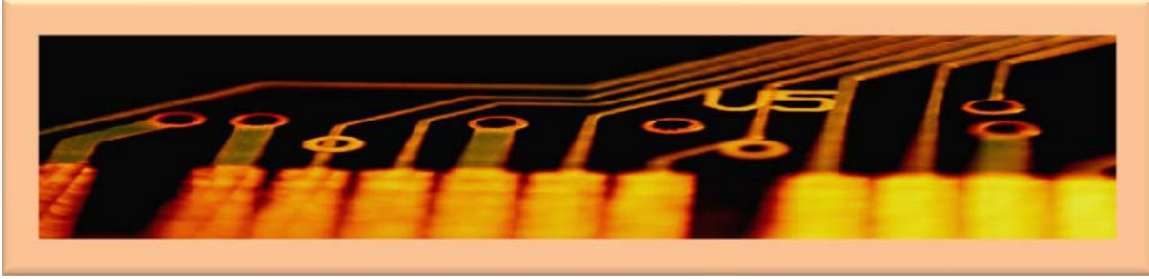
Kelly-Anne Saffin
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Mid North RDB

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Broken Hill to Adelaide Fibre Optic Backhaul
BUSINESS CASE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIBRE OPTIC
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Broken Hill to Adelaide Fibre Optic Backhaul

BUSINESS CASE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIBRE OPTIC BACKHAUL

Submitted in August 2009 to the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy- Regional Backbone Blackspots Division

For more information please contact:

Central Region Local Government Association

Phone: (08) 8638 5557

Mid North Regional Development Board

Phone: (08) 8842 3115

Barossa & Light Regional Development Board

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to examine the business case for government investment in construction of a fibre optic network from Broken Hill to Adelaide via Peterborough, Jamestown, Burra, Clare, Saddleworth, Riverton and the Barossa Valley.

The construction of fibre optic backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide would:

- provide competitive fibre optic backhaul to Broken Hill which is currently only serviced by one provider;
- fulfil critical infrastructure for social and economic needs;
- provide fibre optic backhaul from which future fibre to the premise (FTTP) solutions can be leveraged;
- form part of the “last mile” solution for the 10% of Australia’s population not currently expected to be covered by the NBN CO Ltd;
- provide better service outcomes and reduced costs to the consumer through the provision of terrestrial broadband services where they are currently unavailable;
- build infrastructure which ownership can be transferred to the NBN CO Ltd;
- fulfil critical infrastructure for social and economic needs;
- provide enhanced availability and affordability of broadband across regional South Australia and in the Mid North region.
-

This business case is prefaced on demonstrating the opportunities that a fibre optic backhaul will provide from Broken Hill to Adelaide, either where the direct breakouts exist, or alternatively where a compatible wireless solution will be made possible through the provision of competitive backhaul.

Broken Hill and South Australia have shared close ties including ABC radio, health and educational facilities and Broken Hill operates on Central Australian Time.

The Broken Hill to Adelaide route has the potential to reach a population of 71,338 who could be serviced either through fibre to the premise, or through complimentary wireless solutions providing a minimum of 12 MG per second speeds. Based on discussions with industry we believe that the route identified (of 569 kilometres) could be undertaken with an investment as low as \$5.69M (based on a combination of underground and overhead cabling) which would include a direct buried fibre optic with 30 break out points using 12 cable fibre with 12,000GB bandwidth capacity (these are approximate figures).

We have also undertaken a comparative analysis of three proposed routes in relation to distance and cost as follows:

Proposed Route	Population	Distance (km)	Cost (\$)*	Population per km	Cost per person
Broken Hill to Adelaide	72,069	569	\$5.69M	126	\$78.95
Broken Hill to Mildura	27,062	299	\$2.99M	91	\$110.49
Broken Hill to Dubbo	36,396	753	\$7.53M	48	\$206.90

PROJECT CONCEPT

The proposed fibre optic route

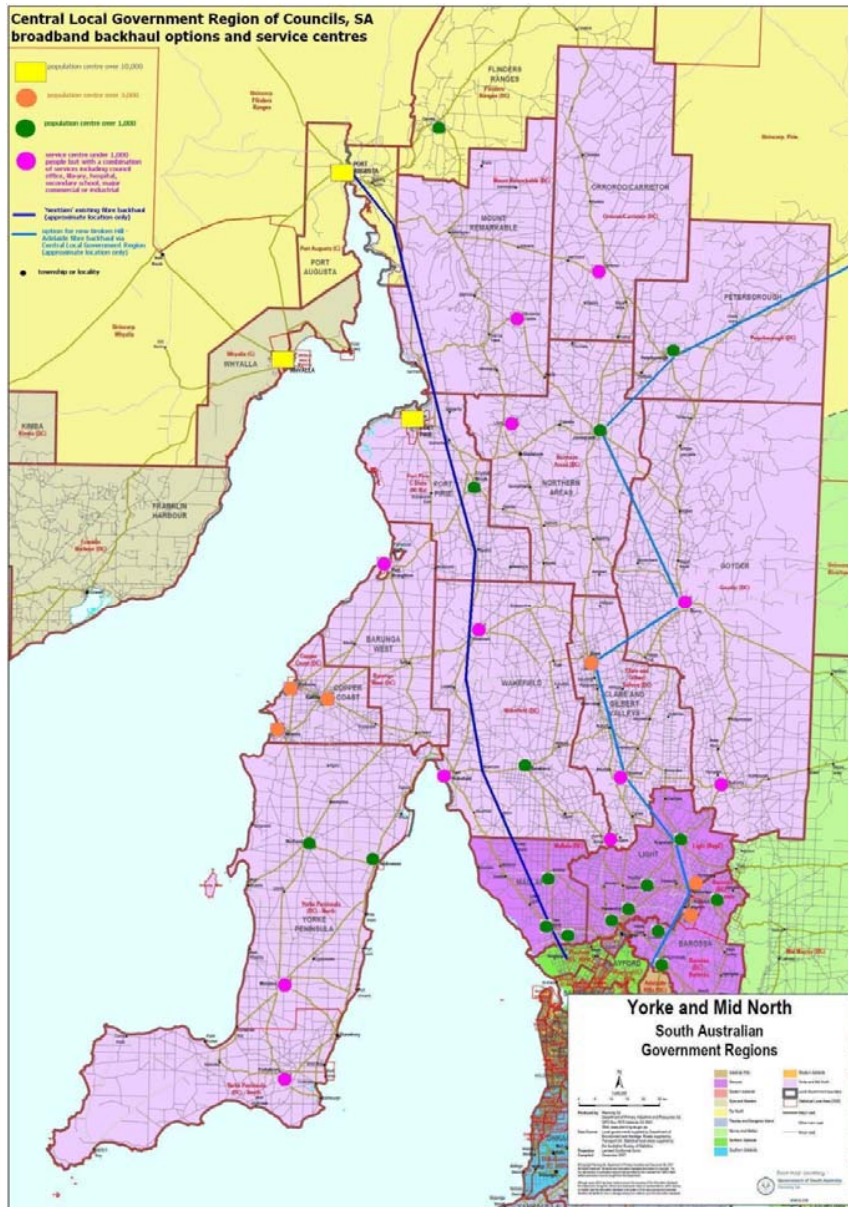
The proposed route from Broken Hill to Adelaide would enable optical fibre to be direct buried or installed along existing electricity transmission lines. It is designed to either follow disused railway corridors (which are currently owned by the South Australian Government) or verges on major transport routes including

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

parts of the Barrier Highway. Alternative routes may also exist where it is feasible and deemed secure to make use of existing easements and infrastructure by following the electricity transmission lines currently in use.

There is a rail corridor which runs from Gawler and on to Stockwell, which subject to access rights would provides a practical and cost effective path for the fibre channel, with minimal disruption to build up areas, yet adjacent to a significant take off opportunity.

Following is a map which the proposed route through population centres in the Mid North and Barossa regions of South Australia.



A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

STRATEGIC POLICY OUTCOMES

The construction of a fibre optic backbone through the Mid North of South Australia will provide competitive backhaul not only to locations where competitive backhaul is not available but will also provide the opportunity to address locations where there is no terrestrial broadband availability. It is envisaged that this can be achieved through a network of WiMax solutions to areas which are likely to be part of the 10% not predicted to be covered under the NBN CO Ltd fibre to the premises proposal. This proposal will deliver social, environmental and economic returns to the locations covered.

In addition, the provision of competitive backhaul in this round of the Regional Backbone Blackspots Initiative would also coincide with the switchover to digital television scheduled for the region. The Spencer Gulf region which includes the locations identified as Peterborough, Jamestown, Clare and Burra are due to be switched over between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2010. At least one re-transmission site at Burra will be affected and the ability to augment the switchover with adequate and affordable broadband that can access innovative new solutions including ABC iView would be timely.

POPULATION TO BE SERVICED BY THE PROPOSED FIBRE OPTIC ROUTE

The population which would potentially be serviced by a Fibre Optic Route is concentrated in six local government areas in South Australia, Broken Hill and the unincorporated lands between the District Council of Peterborough and the Broken Hill City Council.

Local Government Area (SLA)	2006 Census District Populationⁱ
Regional Council of Light	12,359
District Council of Barossa	20,546
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	8,143
Regional Council of Goyder	4,185
Northern Areas Council	4,650
District Council of Peterborough	1,904
Unincorporated Far West	731
Broken Hill City Council	19,551
TOTAL	72,069

The six South Australia Local Government areas comprise 19% of South Australia’s regional population 3.4% of the states total population.

CURRENT STATUS OF BROADBAND AVAILABILITY AND USAGE ALONG THE PROPOSED FIBRE OPTICE ROUTE

Current availability of terrestrial services

One of the key factors in relation to the demand for services can be seen in the percentage of population which currently does not have access to terrestrial broadband for which a “last mile” solution could be derived from a fibre optic backhaul.

Local Government Area (SLA)	Population with Terrestrial Broadband Available	Population with Terrestrial Broadband Not Available	% Council Population Broadband Not Available	% Council Population Broadband Availableⁱⁱ
Regional Council of Light	9,108	2136	19%	81%
District Council of Barossa	19,942	602	3%	97%
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	4,955	3174	39%	61%

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Council				
Regional Council of Goyder	1,762	2,429	58%	42%
Northern Areas Council	4,136	500	11%	89%
District Council of Peterborough	1,692	214	11%	89%
<i>Broken Hill City Council</i>	<i>Unavailable</i>	<i>Unavailable</i>	<i>Unavailable</i>	<i>Unavailable</i>
TOTAL	41,595	9,055	17.9%	82.1%

Current take up of broadband services along the proposed Fibre Optic route

Local Government Area (SLA)	Number Dwellings with Broadband Connection	Number Dwellings using Dial-Up Connection	Number Dwellings without Broadband Connection	% Dwellings with Broadband Connections	%Dwellings using Dial-Up Connection	% Dwellings without Broadband Connections ⁱⁱⁱ
Regional Council of Light	1,067	1,523	1,615	25.4%	36.2%	38.4%
District Council of Barossa	1,877	2547	3,320	24.2%	32.9%	42.9%
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	466	1,242	1,470	14.7%	39.1%	46.2%
Regional Council of Goyder	116	701	870	6.9%	41.5%	51.6%
Northern Areas Council	222	697	905	12.2%	38.2%	49.6%
District Council of Peterborough	15	268	520	1.9%	33.4%	64.7%
Broken Hill City Council	2,070	1,373	4,253	26.9%	17.8%	55.3%
TOTAL	5,833	8,351	12,953	16%	34.2%	49.8%

Availability of ADSL exchanges through the Fibre Optic region

ADSL 2+ enabled exchanges	ADSL enabled exchanges	Exchanges not enabled	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clare ● Auburn ● Riverton ● Peterborough ● Jamestown ● Laura ● Gladstone ● Angaston ● Tanunda ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watervale ● Eudunda ● Burra ● Kapunda ● Freeling ● Rosedale ● Greenock ● Truro ● Gumeracha ● Williamstown ● Lyndoch ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hilltown ● Sevenhill ● Mintaro ● Manoora ● Tothill Creek ● Saddleworth ● Marrabel ● Tarlee ● Bower ● Bower North ● Robertstown ● Emu Downs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yongala ● Canowie Belt ● Belalie ● Mannanarie ● Tarcowie ● Wasleys ● Hornsdale ● Appila ● Caltowie ● Bundaleer ● Georgetown ● Gulnare ● Narridy ● Koonunga Hill

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Farrell Flat● Hanson● Booborowie● Mount Bryan● Hallett	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Moculta● Keyneton● Eden Valley● Black Rock● Terowie
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ECONOMIC INPUT OF THE REGIONS ALONG THE PROPOSED FIBRE OPTIC ROUTE

The proposed fibre optic route traverses a number of series of regions which range from pastoral country from Broken Hill to Burra and wineries and intensive horticulture in the south. To demonstrate the economic output we have provided both regional and sectoral analysis of the economic contribution along the proposed fibre optic route.

Region Analysis- Jamestown

Jamestown is the primary service centre for the Northern Areas Council district, containing one quarter of the total district population and experiencing considerable growth and development activity across a number of sectors including: construction of additional aged care facilities, upgrade of the regional airstrip, new supermarket development (\$3.5m), two new housing estates (\$8m) and a new regional sporting stadium (\$1.5m).

Jamestown has been identified as a strategic location for ongoing industrial, service and retail growth within the South Australian Government 'State Planning Strategy – Mid North Regional Landuse Framework' and is also noted for its location along a primary east-west national transport route from New South Wales to Western Australia.

Development of a new Industrial Park precinct in recent years has also supported industry expansion, with near capacity take up in the park to date and additional land purchased by Council to develop Stage 2. A key tenant of the Industrial Park is wind farm operator, Suzlon Energy who is currently constructing around \$3 billion wind farm infrastructure around the region including at Hallett, Snowtown, Clements Gap, with others also in the planning stage.

Suzlon is looking to establish warehouse and operations base at the Jamestown Industrial Park (\$3.5m) with a permanent workforce of around 27 people plus additional employment during construction phase.

Elders Ltd have also established a new regional base (\$1.5m) at Jamestown, which is home to a major sale yard for the selling of sheep from across the broader Mid North and North-East pastoral regions.

Mining projects to the north-east of Jamestown including Exco, Pepinnini, Uranium One and Havilah also represent opportunities for growth.

Region Analysis- Mid North

The Mid North of South Australia is an extremely productive agricultural region and is renowned for its cereal crops, merino wool and viticulture covering the Regional Council of Goyder and Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council areas. Growing and expanding industries include pigs, poultry and wind farms. Tourism is a strong industry in the Mid North and is supported by an internationally recognised wine district, heritage buildings, pioneer history and the regions pleasant and varied landscape.

Major Service centres in the region are located at Clare, Burra, Riverton and Eudunda. In particular the region is an area of significant international trade and export with an iconic reputation recognised world wide for wine production and internationally competitive businesses in specialist manufacturing. In the last

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

two years investment in winery expansions has totalled over \$14.5m and Greenfield developments for over 300 housing allotments have been lodged in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys region alone.

National Highway One runs along the western edge of the region providing good links with Adelaide and major centre's to the north and west of the State including direct access along the Barrier Highway to Broken Hill in New South Wales.

The proprietor of the Sevenhill Hotel runs a successful on-line wine business. The hamlet of Sevenhill is 7kms south of the regional service centre Clare, despite the connection of Satellite services the proprietor is unable to support the website and now rents an office space at the cost of \$5200 per annum in Clare in order to maintain the e-business of selling wines. The lack of adequate broadband at the premises is a direct barrier to the business' growth.

Region Analysis- Peterborough

The town of Peterborough was once a thriving service town for the Central Australian railways and part of the major transport route from Broken Hill to Adelaide. It is envisaged that the proximity to mining developments associated with the Honeymoon Uranium Mine being developed by Mitsui and Uranium One will bring further economic development to the region.

Region Analysis- Broken Hill

Broken Hill is located 1,100 km west of Sydney but closely tied to the nearby South Australia. Broken Hill was founded as a mining town and the Broken Hill Ore Deposit until recently provided the majority of the direct employment in the city.

While the labour force has been in decline in the mining industry until recently, due to the resurgence in metal and resource prices, there has been recent development of previously unmined deposits

Broken Hill has also strengthened its identity as a significant tourism destination.

Region Analysis- Barossa

The Barossa region is slated for significant population growth over the next 30 years in the Greater Adelaide 30 year plan. The Barossa region has a large concentration of significant corporate entities; particularly along the Sturt Highway, but also in the Barossa Valley around Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Angaston. Many of these organisations currently utilise video conferencing and other forms of virtual meeting technology to reduce their travel budgets and environmental impact.

A major pharmaceutical company, employing over 60 people at two sites over the Barossa and Clare is unable to access broadband at Mintaro. As part of their business they would like to introduce video conferencing facilities to assist communication between the Barossa and Clare facilities (approximately 80 kms apart) and to communicate with their head office in the United Kingdom. They have recently paid \$5000 for a quote to explore how they might access 10MGB broadband capacity.

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

The Barossa region has a growing education sector with TAFE colleges adjacent to this corridor (with international student enrolments) and a number of executive education and ongoing learning providers based within the region. The Barossa & Light Regional Development Board Strategic Plan includes the establishment of a virtual University within the Barossa to develop accessibility to tertiary education from the region. There are two high schools and ten primary schools adjacent to the Barossa line and 10 schools in Gawler.

Sector Analysis- Agriculture

Agriculture is by far the strongest sector employing over a quarter of the labour force with a nation wide trend of growth in the health and community sectors. The Agriculture Commodities: Small Area Data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides that in 2005- 2006 the gross value of output from the region was:

Local Government Area (SLA)	Agriculture Commodities Output 2005-2006^{iv}
Regional Council of Light	\$130,678,176
District Council of Barossa	\$67,676,705
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	\$116,565,871
Regional Council of Goyder	\$96,713,576
Northern Areas Council	\$103,671,053
District Council of Peterborough	\$8,762,575
Broken Hill City Council	-
TOTAL	\$524,067,956

The total Agriculture Commodities Output in the six South Australian local government areas (excluding the City Council of Broken Hill) is equivalent to 11.9% of South Australia's total output in 2005-2006.

Sector Analysis- Mining

The following mining activities are currently within the local government or unincorporated areas identified on the Broken Hill to Adelaide route. We have only included those activities that are already operational or at advanced feasibility stage, although in conjunction with the South Australian Government's PACE (Plan for Accelerating Exploration) program exploration has greatly increased through the region:

- Uranium One Honeymoon Uranium Mine which has recently been granted approval by the Commonwealth government. It is estimated to commence construction in 2009 and during the construction phase cost a total of \$118m and employ 120 construction workers with a projected 65 ongoing operational positions;^v
- Penrice Mines is 2.5km north of Angaston and is an operating chemical grade limestone mine;^{vi}
- Exco Resources White Dam Polymetals and Gold Mine situated approximately 80kms west of Broken Hill which has an advanced project proposal and has scheduled construction and gold production for 2009.

Sector Analysis- Tourism

The tourism sector is also universally important to the all of the locations along the proposed route. Figures released by the South Australian Tourism Commission in 2008^{vii} indicate that the regions enjoyed the following tourism visitation:

- Barossa Tourism Region-190,000 overnight visitors who stayed more than half a million nights (515,000 nights) in the region plus 707,000 day trip visitors;
- Clare Valley Tourism Region- 175,000 overnight visitors who stayed 360,000 nights in the region plus 324,000 day trip visitors;

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

- Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism Region- 542,000 overnight visitors who stayed 2,232,000 nights in the region plus 410,000 day trip visitors^{viii}. (Note- Some of this region includes Northern Flinders which will not be covered under the proposed fibre optic route).

In addition Broken Hill City Council estimates that Broken Hill attracts over 300,000 visitors per year.

Sector Analysis- Renewable Energies

The installation of wind farms along the entire route has led to significant activity and population increases during construction. Along the proposed route the following wind farms are either completed or deemed ready for construction:

- The Hallett Wind Farm, built at a cost of \$238m produces 95 megawatt (MW) facility and is located adjacent to AGL's existing 180 MW gas-fired peaking power plant at Hallett. The choice of Hallett as an area for the current development was driven by its proximity to one the largest wind resources on mainland Australia, access to existing infrastructure (including gas lines) and close proximity to the high voltage electricity transmission system. The Hallett 1 wind farm has 45 wind turbines on a 14 kilometre area over the Brown Hill ridge near Hallett.
- Stage 2 of the Hallett Development is commissioned for construction and will consist of 30 Wind Turbines with the estimate project cost between \$180- \$200M producing 71 MW's;
- A third stage is approved for Mount Bryan (Hallett 3) with an estimated 30 Wind Turbines and output of 90 MW's.
- The Waterloo Wind Farm, currently under construction and located 30 km south-east of the township of Clare will comprise thirty-nine wind turbines, with a maximum total generating capacity of 117 MW. Approximately 50 to 100 short to medium term jobs will be created by the year-long construction phase, with positive economic flow-on benefits to the local economy estimated at \$18 million.
- Silverton Wind Farm, located 20kms west of Broken Hill towards the South Australian border also has potential to be part of the fibre optic route. On 24 May 2009, the Silverton Wind Farm received Project Approval for the construction and installation of 282 wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in addition to Concept Approval for the entire site, comprising 598 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. Once completed it will have a capacity in excess of 1,000MW and is predicted to inject \$700M into the national, and more particularly New South Wales, economy with a total spend of approximately \$2.5b creating 120 full time jobs in the Broken Hill region.

SERVICE CENTRES AND COMMUNITY ACCESS

The Central Local Government Region (Attachment 7) has undertaken an analysis of the locations along the proposed fibre optic route which support crucial infrastructure including health services, education and local government. The efficiencies contemplated through the provision of high speed broadband, and the access to e-learning and video conferencing opportunities that will opened are significant.

POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM ACCESSIBILITY TO HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

The economic benefits of high speed broadband have been examined by a number of leading economic analysts. Pricewaterhouse Coopers in an address to the Communication Alliance in February 2009 considered the following variations in economic returns:^{ix}

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

Study	Range of economic returns (percentage figure are on a per annum basis)	Notes on the study
Broadband Advisory Group	1.2 to 3 per cent	\$12 billion to \$30 billion taken from <i>Broadband for Australia, An Economic Stimulus Package</i> a paper prepared by Accenture.
The Allen Consulting Group	2 per cent	Based on what it considered was poor access to affordable bandwidth (2.6 per cent if this improved, i.e. broadband is made more available through cheaper prices). Study assumed perfectly competitive markets and fully flexible labour markets. These are real world limitations which ultimately would reduce the economic benefits outlined.
ACIL Tasman Group	0.5 to 0.8 per cent	State based analysis of the rollout broadband as part of the Victorian Government's multimedia Victoria investment. Assumed that investment built on the roll out occurring by companies. Assessment closer to the scenario described where investment is incremental and building on existing infrastructure.
The Local Government Association	\$2.7 billion of the GSP of regional Australia	Looked at an 'inferior' internet access costing regional Australia. This impact is unlikely to occur given the Government's announced NBN.
The Allen Consulting Group	0.28 to 0.48 per cent	Assumes that GDP there is an incremental growth per capita of \$4,000 by 2010. Further assumes that there is 50 per cent penetration by 2010 if regulatory and financing conditions prove favourable. This figure is considered to be high compared to other estimates and reflects the population and market size in the US.
Information Society Commission	2.6 per cent	This report is based on a market failure which the commission believed required government investment. The returns available are based on a low base. While noting this, the Commission effectively suggested that Ireland needed to invest to stay relevant in its markets. The 2.6 per cent is a high estimate which could be reduced in the Australian context.

In addition the Centre for International Economics released a paper entitled "Impact of genuine broadband for Australia" in November 2008 which concluded that "widespread access and use of genuine broadband would expand economic activity- an increase of around 1.4 per cent of GDP could be expected after 5 years.^x

Taking into account the variation in rate depending of the regional area and industry mix would indicate that the closest economic modelling is the study commissioned by DFEEST "Creating new markets: broadband adoption and economic benefits on the Yorke Peninsula"^{xi} identifies the benefits of a \$2.4m investment which over five years is estimated to have leveraged \$21.4m in regional benefits and \$25.5m in state benefits following. As our neighbouring region we believe that a similar ratio of economic benefit can be achieved from WiMax solution leveraged from the fibre optic backbone.

THE COST OF FIBRE OPTIC BACKHAUL FROM BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

In relation to the cost per kilometre for fibre optic, following discussions with various providers, we have based our calculations on a cost of \$10,000 per km which takes into account the mixture of direct cabling likely to be required in urban and concentrated rural areas and overhead cabling in more remote locations. This is of course variable depending upon the transmission lines and access that can be negotiated.

In addition local government have indicated their willingness to partner in any project that was to occur along this route. In particular several councils have indicated in their attracted letters of support an offer to support to the Government and any tenderer considering such a route by:

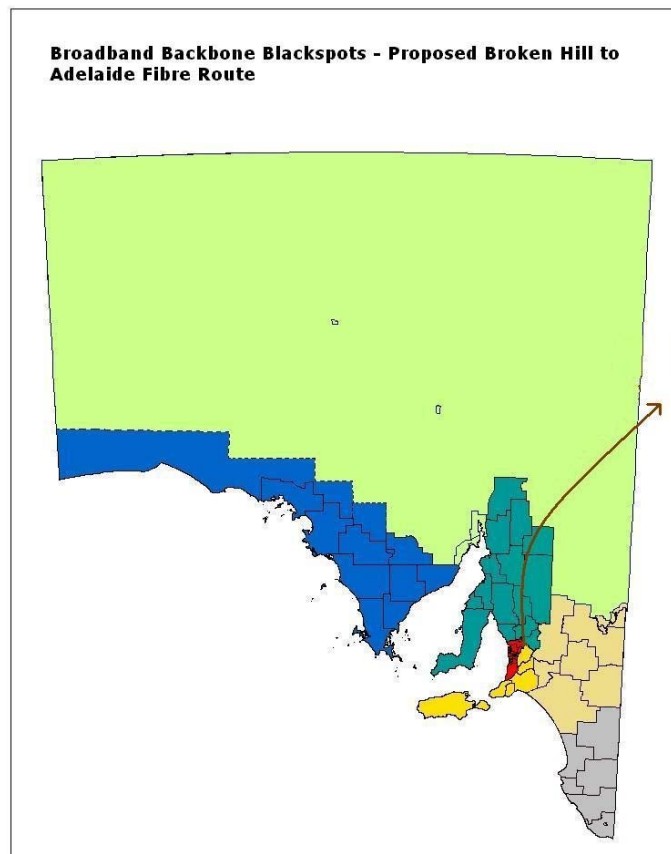
- Funding support for local 'breakout points' within their respective communities;
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information, as appropriate;

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

- Advice on local development application and approval procedures, as appropriate;
- Local project promotion and publicity;
- Coordination with various Government agencies and key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example, rail and road corridors and other public easements.

ALTERNATIVES ROUTES

The following diagram illustrates the interconnection of the proposed route through the Mid North of South Australia and Broken Hill.

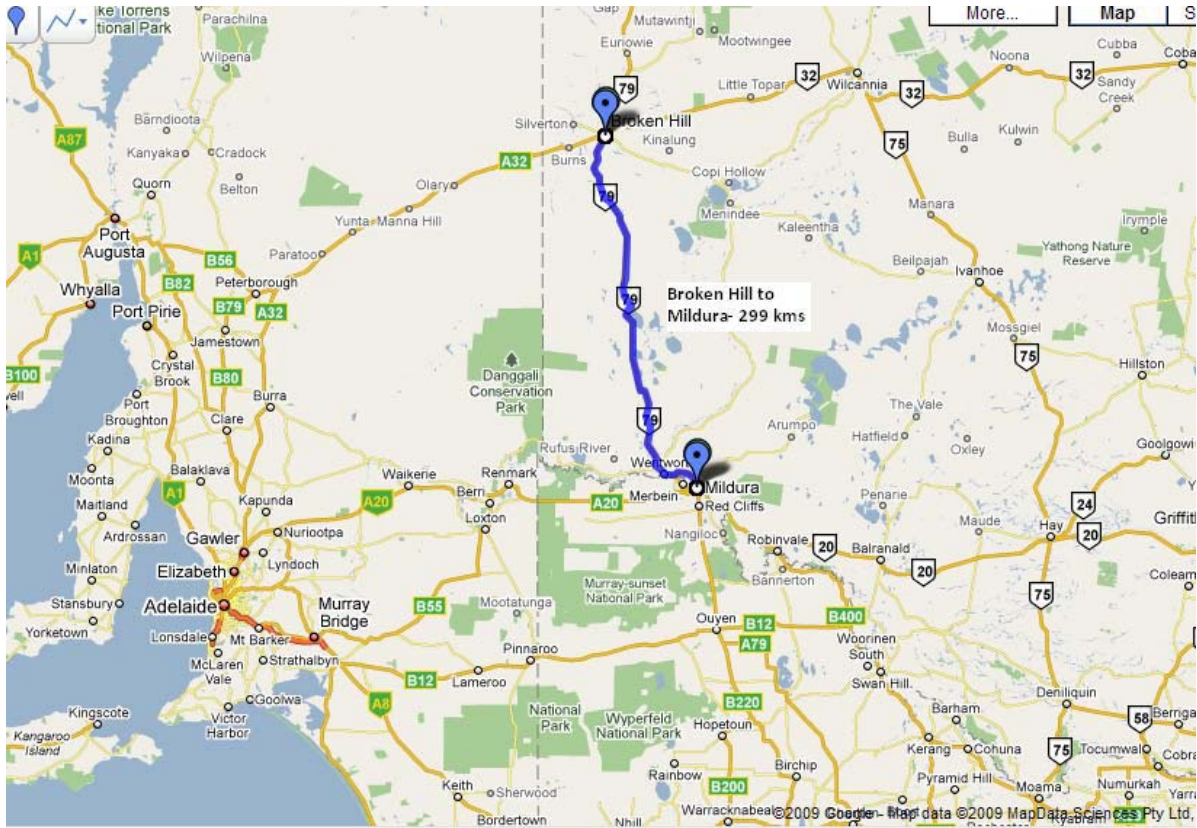


To provide competitive backhaul to Broken Hill we believe that there are two other significant alternative routes that should be contemplated.

Broken Hill to Mildura

The Victorian Government have indicated in their submission to the Regional Backbone Blackspots program^{xii} that the Victorian Government initiative, VicFibre LINKS has allocated a share of \$20m towards one of its priority routes for competitive open access fibre backhaul from Bendigo to Mildura. Therefore a route as prescribed via Wentworth covering 299kms would also provide competitive backhaul.

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide



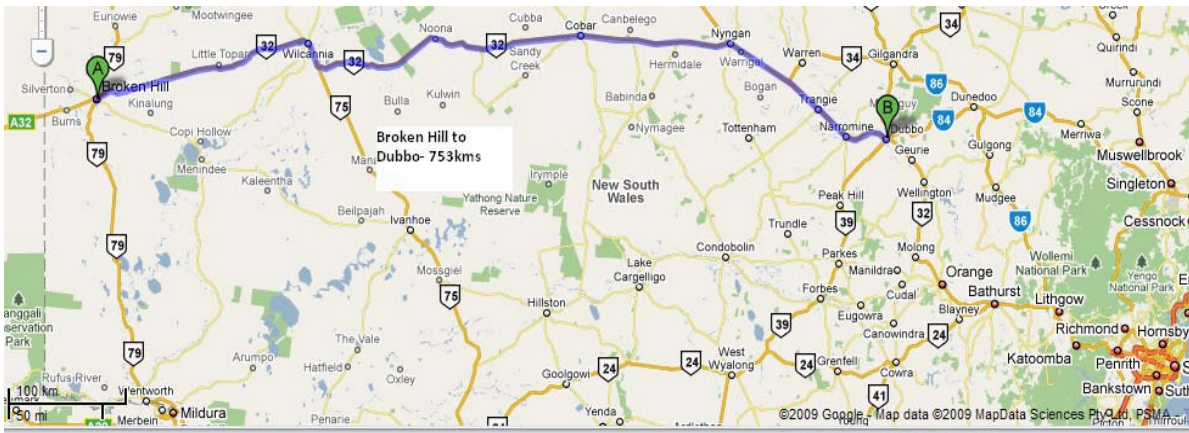
The Broken Hill to Mildura route would potentially service the following population:

Local Government Area (SLA)	2006 Census District Population ^{xiii}
Unincorporated Far West	731
Wentworth Shire Council	6,780
Broken Hill City Council	19,551
TOTAL	27,062

Broken Hill to Dubbo

Examination of the Regional Development Australia- Outback submission^{xiv} to the Regional Backbone Blackspots Initiative indicates that the preferred interconnection with existing open access fibre optic cable is at Dubbo where the New South Wales Government and Soul’s existing network access points can allow aggregation of regional infrastructure within a particular region. We have completed our analysis by adopting the route prescribed in the Regional Development Australia- Outback submission which incorporates Noona, Cobar and Nyngan and covers 753kms.

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide



The Broken Hill to Dubbo route would potentially service the following population:

Local Government Area (SLA)	2006 Census District Population ^{xv}
Unincorporated Far West	731
Central Darling Shire Council	1,938
Cobar Shire Council	4,918
Warren Shire Council	2,751
Narromine Shire Council	6,507
Broken Hill City Council	19,551
TOTAL	36,396

Comparison of the three alternative routes

Proposed Route	Population	Distance (km)	Cost (\$)*	Population per km	Cost per person
Broken Hill to Adelaide	72,069	569	\$5.69M	126	\$78.95
Broken Hill to Mildura	27,062	299	\$2.99M	91	\$110.49
Broken Hill to Dubbo	36,396	753	\$7.53M	48	\$206.90

In undertaking these comparisons we have not included the population final interconnection of the fibre optic backbone (respectively Mildura, Gawler and Dubbo) as we understand they are already serviced by competitive backhaul. We also acknowledge that redundancy and a route that incorporated Mildura to Broken Hill to Adelaide would provide greater security.

*Cost based on \$10,000 per km for a combination direct buried and overhead cabling

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND SUPPORT FOR THE BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE ROUTE

In preparing this business we have consulted with major stakeholders and the proposal demonstrates partnerships and coordination at a regional and state level. First and foremost this submission is based on the ever increasing theme of partnership across all tiers of government and with industry as identified in the Glasson Review.^{xvi}

A Business Case for the construction of Fibre Optic Backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide

During the course of preparing this business case we have received advice and information from Information Directorate- South Australian Department of Further Education Employment Science and Training. We have also identified the following stakeholders who have a critical need for high speed broadband services:

- Local Government;
- Businesses;
- Emergency Service Agencies;
- Health Facilities;
- Education Facilities across the region.

In the course of consulting with the communities in relation to their need for high speed broadband and support for the proposal the following individuals and organisations have provided indications of support attached to this business case:

- Hon Nick Champion MP (Federal Member for Wakefield);
- Hon Rowan Ramsey MP (Federal Member for Grey);
- Hon Michael O'Brien, Minister for Digital Economy;
- Hon Geoff Brock MP (State Member for Frome);
- Local Government Association (SA);
- Central Local Government Region (SA);
- The Barossa Council;
- Light Regional Council;
- Regional Council of Goyder;
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council;
- District Council of Peterborough;
- Northern Areas Council;
- Mid North Regional Development Board;
- Barossa & Light Regional Development Board;
- Northern Regional Development Board;
- Southern Flinders Regional Development Board;
- Flinders Ranges & Outback SA Tourism;
- Outback Areas Community Development.

ⁱ Figures based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census Data Population & Housing

ⁱⁱ South Australian Government presentation to the Central Local Government Region, Information Economy Directorate, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology 13 February 2009

ⁱⁱⁱ Figures based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census Data Population & Housing

^{iv} 71250D0019 200506 Agriculture Commodities: Small Area Data, Australia 2005 2006, Australian Bureau of Statistics 6 June 2008

^v Outback Development Forum Development Update: Far West Region NSW, July 2009

^{vi} Vision 2020 project: The Australian Minerals Industry's Infrastructure Path to Prosperity: An assessment of industrial and community infrastructure in major resource regions, ACIL Tasman prepared for the Minerals Council of Australia, May 2009

^{vii} South Australian Tourism Commission Regional Reports 2008

^{viii} Broken Hill City Council Website, updated 25 June 2009

^{ix} Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Mark Vassarotti, Economic Impacts of Broadband for Australia and Globally February 2009

^x Centre for International Economics, Kerry Barwise, Impact of genuine broadband for Australia, 5 November 2008

^{xi} Creating new markets: broadband adoption and economic benefits on the Yorke Peninsula, Report prepared for the Information Directorate, DFEEST, August 2008

^{xii} Victorian Government Submission to Commonwealth BBI Consultation Paper, 12 May 2009

^{xiii} Figures based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census Data Population & Housing

^{xiv} Outback NSW Area Consultative Committee and Far Western Regional Development Board on behalf of Regional Development Australia Outback Submission to the Australian Government's National Broadband Network: Backhaul Blackspots Initiative, May 2009

^{xv} Figures based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census Data Population & Housing

^{xvi} Glasson Review, Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee, Glasson Review, 15 October 2008



Nick Champion MP
Federal Member for Wakefield



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

517109

I write in support of the proposal by the Mid North Regional Development Board for the establishment of a fibre optic cable from Broken Hill to Adelaide, under the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy's Backhaul Blackspots initiative.

The Board's proposal, which involves the construction of new fibre backhaul from Broken Hill to Adelaide via major service centres, will bring improved broadband coverage to the regional areas north of Adelaide, which experience relatively low access to terrestrial broadband.

Such a project would also provide an immediate economic stimulus in the region, through construction and related activity.

The Mid North Regional Development Board has been pivotal in facilitating economic development and investment in the mid north, and I am happy to support this proposal.

Yours sincerely

NICK CHAMPION MP
Federal Member for Wakefield

Standing up for the North

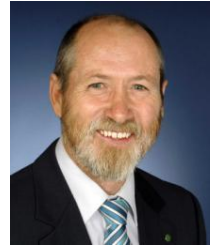
Shop 89, 600 Main North Road PO Box 288, Smithfield SA 5114

Phone 8284 2422 Fax 8284 2433 Local Call 1300 780 170

Email Nick.Champion.MP@aph.gov.au



ROWAN RAMSEY MP
Member for Grey



Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
31 July 2009

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

Dear Minister

I would like to offer my full support for construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia, as part of the Federal Government's recent 'Backbone Blackspots' announcements.

Reliable, fast, broadband is a vital tool for communities particularly in rural and regional areas and I would welcome this project in Grey.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

ROWAN RAMSEY MP
Federal Member for Grey
RR;lls

WHYALLA OFFICE:
45a Playford Avenue WHYALLA SA 5600
Phone: (08) 8645 4255 /
Phone: 1300 301 651 (local call cost)
Fax: (08) 8645 5933

PORT PIRIE OFFICE:
104 Ellen Street (PO Box 296) PORT PIRIE SA 5540
Phone: (08) 8633 1744
Phone: 1300 301 742 (local call cost)
Fax: (08) 8633 1749



Frome Electorate Office

Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome

Submission 121

Date received: 25/02/2011



31 July 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Conroy

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

In my capacity as Member for Frome I would like to offer my support for construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia, as part of the Federal Government's recent 'Backbone Blackspots' announcements.

My electorate encompasses 5 Local Government regions and I applaud the collaborative efforts of Councils in my electorate to work closely with Federal and State Government, along with the private sector to facilitate the availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our State.

My office receives numerous contacts from constituents regarding their issues in accessing affordable, reliable and competitive broadband services. These issues are referred to Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey in the north of my Electorate and to Federal Member for Wakefield, Nick Champion in the south, in their efforts to resolve their broadband communication issues.

Provision of funding for the construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide will resolve many of these issues and add considerable value, both economically and socially, to those who call regional South Australian home.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Brock MP
Member for Frome

Office of the President*Our Reference:* 49114/ RV:EW

4 August 2009

The Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Suite MG 70
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Fax: (02) 6273 4154

Level 1, 16 Hutt Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel 08 8224 2000**Fax** 08 8232 6336**Email** lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au**Web** www.lga.sa.gov.au

ABN 83 058 386 353

Dear Minister

Regional Backbone Blackspot – Broken Hill to Adelaide

Dear Minister

The announcement by the Australian Government to embark upon a major long-term national broadband network build is commended by the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA) and, coupled with the Backbone Blackspots program, provides a realistic opportunity to resolving the short term 'digital divide' for many communities in the State.

The LGA would therefore like to offer its support for the construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia, as part of the Federal Government's recent 'Backbone Blackspots' announcements.

The Central Local Government Region incorporates some 15 Councils right across the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Ranges Lower and Mid North areas of South Australia. The member Councils are: Barossa, Barunga West, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Flinders Ranges, Goyder, Light Regional, Mallala, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie Regional, Wakefield Regional and Yorke Peninsula.

This represents approximately one quarter of the non-metropolitan population and improving telecommunications, particularly accessibility to modern, affordable broadband has been a key focus for the Central Local Government Region for several years. Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services. As a result, approximately 40% of the Central Region population remains currently unable to access terrestrial broadband.

Please feel free to contact me on (08) 8224 2022 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis

President*Telephone:*

Cc Hon Michael O'Brien MP, Minister for Science and Information Economy
Mayor James Maitland, Chairman, Central Local Government Region
Ms Anita Crisp, Executive Officer, Central Local Government Region



Central

Local Government Region of South Australia

Incorporated under provisions of the Local Government Act

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

3rd August 2009

ABN: 34 728 242 315

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL

Chairman:

James Maitland

Executive Officer:

Anita Crisp

Postal Address:

PO Box 168
CRYSTAL BROOK SA 5523

Telephone:

08 8638 5557

Facsimile:

08 8638 5517

Email:

ceo@centralregion.sa.gov.au

Website:

www.centralregion.sa.gov.au

Member Councils:

- The Barossa
- Barunga West
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys
- Copper Coast
- Flinders Ranges
- Goyder
- Light Regional
- Mallala
- Mount Remarkable
- Northern Areas
- Orroroo/Carrieton
- Peterborough
- Port Pirie Regional
- Wakefield Regional
- Yorke Peninsula

Dear Minister

The Central Local Government Region of South Australia strongly encourages the construction of a fibre backhaul link from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Southern Flinders, Mid North, Clare and Barossa regions in South Australia.

The Central Local Government Region (CLGR) incorporates some 15 Councils right across the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Ranges Lower and Mid North areas of South Australia. The member Councils are: The Barossa, Barunga West, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Flinders Ranges, Goyder, Light Regional, Mallala, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie Regional, Wakefield Regional and Yorke Peninsula.

This represents approximately one quarter of the non-metropolitan population and incorporated land mass of South Australia.

Improving telecommunications across the Central Local Government Region, particularly accessibility to modern, affordable broadband has been a key focus of the CLGR for several years now, as is considered essential infrastructure upon which our future economic productivity and social equity is based.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services. As a result, approximately 40%* of the Central Region population remains currently unable to access terrestrial broadband.

It is recognised that many of our smaller communities are not well placed to immediately receive a fibre-to-the-premise (FTTP) solution and for these localities, a robust and scaleable terrestrial wireless solution is certainly an appropriate 'last mile' option. This solution however, also relies on access to a competitive and affordable fibre backhaul network – which does not currently exist.

Future traffic opportunities within the region also exist with the turn off of analog television (June – Dec 2010) including proposed but not yet finalised solutions for free-to-air commercial, ABC, SBS, and community digital television access across our region.

A list of population centres in the Central Local Government Region has been provided for your information, including identification of the key service centres which contain the following characteristics that support their inclusion for early access to a fibre backhaul capability:

- Council Office
- Hospital and Doctor Surgery
- Secondary Schooling
- Retail Precinct
- Industrial or Commercial Activity
- Significant Growth & Development (ie identified within State Planning Strategy)

Centres across the Region that have a population in excess of 1,000 people and by such inference are expected to be considered favourably in the long term for fibre-to-the-premises technology include:

PORT PIRIE-13206, NURIOTPA-5030, TANUNDA-4683, KADINA-4026, MOONTA-3350, CLARE-3063, WALLAROO-3053, KAPUNDA-2739, LEWISTON-2724, WILLIAMSTOWN-2652, TWO WELLS-2349, ANGASTON-2215, HEWETT-1978, LYNDON-1829, PETERBOROUGH-1689, FREELING-1634, BALAKLAVA-1627, CRYSTAL BROOK-1549, JAMESTOWN-1407, QUORN-1259, ROSEWORTHY-1163, ARDROSSAN-1122, MAITLAND-1056, MALLALA-1033

Towns of less than 1,000 people, but of significance as a service centre and with a high portion of the listed services, or substantial identified growth, include:

BURRA-978, PORT BROUGHTON-908, MINLATON-774, GLADSTONE-764, RIVERTON-723, YORKETOWN-685, EUDUNDA-641, ORROROO-634, HAMLEY BRIDGE-783, SADDLEWORTH-634, SNOWTOWN-523, BOOLEROO CENTRE-488, PORT WAKEFIELD-476, HAWKER-361

In assessing the need for backhaul it is also important to take into account the high visitation rate across the Region including significant seasonal population expansion. Overall, it is estimated that on any given day there are around 9,000** visitors in the area, in addition to the some 110,000 permanent residents of the Region.

It is appreciated that the successful and timely construction of a Broken Hill Adelaide backhaul link may be assisted through access to local knowledge and 'on-ground' support.

To that end, Local Government Councils, along with Regional Development Boards in the vicinity of the proposed backhaul route have indicated their support for such a proposal and their willingness to work with any successful tenderer in consideration of, for example:

- Funding support for local 'breakout points' within their respective communities
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information, as appropriate
- Advice on local development application and approval procedures, as appropriate
- Local project promotion and publicity
- Coordination with various Government agencies or key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example, rail and road corridors and other public easements

In closing, the recent announcement by the Australian Government to embark upon a major long-term national broadband network build is commended by our Association and, coupled with the Backbone Blackspots program, provides a realistic opportunity to finally start resolving the short term 'digital divide' for many communities in our Region, within a longer term planning and infrastructure context.

We therefore encourage your favourable consideration of a Broken Hill Adelaide fibre backhaul route as the first step to achieving this.

Yours sincerely

Mayor James Maitland
Chairman

Attachments:

1. Population, Service Centres and Fibre Backhaul Opportunities Map (extracted from Central Local Government Region Backbone Blackspots Submission, May 2009)
2. Service & Population Data by Local Government Area

* SA Government (2008) 'SA Strategic Plan Update Report'

**CLGR (2008) 'Regional Natural Disaster and Risk Mitigation Strategy'

ATTACHMENT 2 - CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGION – SERVICE AND POPULATION DATA BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

COUNCIL	2006 DISTRICT POPULATION	TOWNSHIPS	TOWNSHIP POPULATION ¹	COUNCIL OFFICE	LIBRARY	HOSPITAL	SCHOOL (SENIOR/COMBINED)	MOTELS & TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	MAJOR RETAIL	MAJOR INDUSTRIAL or COMMERCIAL	CURRENT BROADBAND BY PROVIDER & TYPE	
BAROSSA	20,546	NURIOTPA	5030	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	AMCOM - WIRELESS; TELSTRA - ADSL2+;	
		TANUNDA	4683			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AMCOM - WIRELESS; TELSTRA - ADSL2+;	
		ANGASTON	2215			✓		✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL;	
		LYNDOCH	1829								TELSTRA ADSL;	
		MT PLEASANT	921			✓		✓				
		WILLIAMSTOWN	2652					✓	✓		TELSTRA ADSL;	
		STOCKWELL	534									
		RURAL	2,682									
	BARUNGA WEST	2,546	PORT BROUGHTON	908	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL;
			BUTE	567								TELSTRA ADSL;
		FISHERMANS BAY	209					✓				
		ALFORD	70									
		KULPARA	183									
		MUNDOORA	248									
		RURAL	361									
CLARE & GILBERT VALLEY		8,143	CLARE	3063	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL 2+;
			RIVERTON	723	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL 2+;
			SADDLEWORTH	634	✓	✓			✓	✓		
		AUBURN	661					✓		✓	TELSTRA ADSL;	
		MARRABEL	209									
		WATERVALE	293					✓			TELSTRA ADSL;	
		SEVENHILL	418					✓				
		MINTARO	223					✓		✓		

¹ Based on ABS 2006 census data, gazetted state suburb

	MANOORA	277																					
	RHYNIE	362									✓												
	TARLEE	288									✓												
	RURAL	992																					
COPPER COAST	KADINA	4026				✓			✓							✓				✓		✓	TELSTRA ADSL 2+;
	MOONITA	3350							✓														TELSTRA ADSL 2+;
	WALLAROO	3053						✓															TELSTRA ADSL 2+;
	PASKEVILLE	473																					
	PORT HUGHES	222																					
	TICKERA	249																					
	RURAL	73																					
FLINDERS RANGES	QUORN	1259				✓			✓													✓	TELSTRA ADSL;
	HAWKER	361				✓			✓														TELSTRA ADSL;
	CRADDOCK	5																					
	RURAL	105																					
GOYDER	BURRA	978				✓			✓													✓	TELSTRA ADSL;
	BOOBOROWIE	267																					
	EUDUNDA	641				✓			✓													✓	TELSTRA ADSL;
	FARRELL FLAT	294																					
	HALLETT	210																					
	ROBERTSTOWN	318																					
	TEROWIE	145																					
	RURAL	1,332																					
LIGHT	KAPUNDA	2739				✓			✓													✓	AMCOM - WIRELESS; TELSTRA - ADSL;
	FREELING	1634																					TELSTRA - ADSL;
	GREENOCK	685																					TELSTRA ADSL;
	HEWETT	1978																					UNKNOWN
	ROSEWORTHY	1163																					TELSTRA - ADSL;
	WASLEYS	611																					

	TRURO	550																TELSTRA ADSL;
	RURAL	2,999																
MALLALA	MALLALA	1033	✓		✓													BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL
	TWO WELLS	2349																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL
	DUBLIN	241																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	LEWISTON	2724																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	MIDDLE BEACH	366																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	THOMPSON BEACH	291																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	PARHAM	212																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	REDBANKS	274																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	WILD HORSE PLAINS	415																BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
MOUNT REMARKABLE	MELROSE	431	✓															TELSTRA ADSL;
	BOOLEROO CENTRE	488		✓														TELSTRA ADSL;
	WILMINGTON	628																TELSTRA ADSL;
	APPILA	50																
	WIRRABARA	624																TELSTRA ADSL;
	HAMMOND	12																
	PORT FLINDERS	208																TELSTRA ADSL;
	PORT GERMEIN	465																TELSTRA ADSL;
NORTHERN AREAS	JAMESTOWN	1407	✓		✓													CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL2+;
	GLADSTONE	764	✓		✓													CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL2+;
	GEORGETOWN	119																
	SPALDING	303																TELSTRA ADSL;
	YACKA	208																
	LAURA	571																CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	CALTOWIE	206																

	GULNARE	95																									
	STONE HUT	287										✓															
	TARCOWIE	215																									
	RURAL	475																									
ORROROO/CAR RIETON	ORROROO	634	935						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL;
	CARRIETON	129																									
	PEKINA	172																									
PETERBOROUGH	PETERBOROUGH	1689	1,904						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	YONGALA	20																									
	OODLAWIRRA	20																									
PORT PIRIE	PORT PIRIE	13206	17,142						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL2+;
	CRYSTAL BROOK	1549							✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL;
	KOOLUNGA	204																									
	NAPPERBY	814																									
	REDHILL	217																									
	WARNERTOWN	532																									
WAKEFIELD	BALAKLAVA	1627	6,372						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TELSTRA ADSL2+L;
	BLYTH	306																									TELSTRA ADSL;
	BRINKWORTH	401																									
	HAMLEY BRIDGE	783																							✓		BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; (SOME)
	LOCHIEL	168																									
	OWEN	422																									BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;
	PORT WAKEFIELD	476																									BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	SNOWTOWN	523																									
YORKE PENINSULA	MAITLAND	1056	11,190						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE - WIRELESS; AGILE ADSL2+; TELSTRA ADSL2+;
	MINLATON	774							✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE - WIRELESS; AGILE ADSL2+; TELSTRA ADSL2+;

	YORKETOWN	685	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE - WIRELESS; AGILE ADSL2+; TELSTRA ADSL2+;
	WAROOKA	247	✓										INTERNODE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	ARDROSSAN	1122		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE - WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	ARTHURTON	295											INTERNODE WIRELESS;
	CURRAMULKA	148											INTERNODE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	EDITHBURG	512			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	MARION BAY	138							✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE WIRELESS;
	POINT TURTON	205							✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE WIRELESS;
	PORT VICTORIA	513							✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	PORT VINCENT	472							✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;
	STANSBURY	522							✓	✓	✓	✓	INTERNODE WIRELESS;



Our Ref: 09/026827

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Date 31 July 2009

Dear Minister

The Barossa Council would like to offer support for construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia, as part of the Federal Government's recent 'Backbone Blackspots' announcements.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our district and our state, with a considerable proportion of our community and industry unable to access a reliable, modern and affordable terrestrial broadband service. Improving this situation is part of our Council's Strategic Plan.

In particular, our Council is prepared to work closely with Federal and State Government, along with the private sector to facilitate such a route including consideration, as appropriate for:

- Funding support for local 'breakout points' in our district
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information
- Advice on local development application and approval procedures
- Local project promotion and publicity
- Coordination with various Government agencies or key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example, rail and road corridors and other public easements

Please feel free to contact me on _____ should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

David Morcom

Chief Executive Officer



LIGHT
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

3rd August 2009

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

Dear Minister

The recent announcement by the Australian Government to embark upon a major long-term national broadband network build is commended by the Light Regional Council and, coupled with the Backbone Blackspots program, provides a realistic opportunity to resolving the short term 'digital divide' for many communities in our Region, within a longer term planning and infrastructure context.

Light Regional Council would like to offer support for construction of a proposed Broken Hill to Adelaide fibre broadband backbone link, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our district and our state, with a considerable proportion of our community and industry unable to access a reliable, modern and affordable terrestrial broadband service.

Our Council is willing to offer support to the Government and any tenderer considering such a route, in particular:

- Funding support for local 'breakout points' within their respective communities
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information, as appropriate
- Advice on local development application and approval procedures, as appropriate
- Local project promotion and publicity
- Coordination with various Government agencies or key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example, rail and road corridors and other public easements

I would be very pleased to discuss our position with you further if required and can be contacted on:

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Walker
Light Regional Council

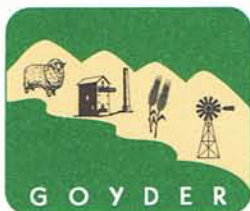
Postal Address:
PO Box 72, Kapunda, South Australia 5373

Telephone: (08) 8525 3200
Email: light@light.sa.gov.au
Website: www.light.sa.gov.au

Light Regional Council ABN: 35 455 841 625

Principal Office
93 Main Street, Kapunda SA 5373
Fax: (08) 8566 3262

Branch Office
12 Hanson Street, Freeling, SA 5372
Fax: (08) 8525 2441



Regional Council of Goyder

ABN 44 460 359 537

1 Market Square, Burra. South Australia, 5417

Telephone (08) 8892 0100 Facsimile (08) 8892 2467

Email: council@goyder.sa.gov.au. Website: www.goyder.sa.gov.au

In reply please quote:

Ref: 19.28

31 July 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

The recent announcement by the Australian Government to embark upon a major long-term national broadband network build is commended by the Regional Council of Goyder and, coupled with the Backbone Blackspots program, provides a realistic opportunity to resolving the short term 'digital divide' for many communities in our Region, within a longer term planning and infrastructure context.

The Regional Council of Goyder would like to offer support for construction of a proposed Broken Hill to Adelaide fibre broadband backbone link, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our district and our state, with a considerable proportion of our community and industry unable to access a reliable, modern and affordable terrestrial broadband service.

Our Council is willing to offer support to the Government and any tenderer considering such a route, in particular:

- Funding support for local 'breakout points' within their respective communities
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information, as appropriate
- Advice on local development application and approval procedures, as appropriate
- Local project promotion and publicity
- Coordination with various Government agencies or key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example, rail and road corridors and other public easements

I would be very pleased to discuss our position with you further if required and can be contacted on jbrak@goyder.sa.gov.au or (08) 8892 0121.

Yours faithfully,

John P. Brak
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CLARE & GILBERT VALLEYS COUNCIL



Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

3 August 2009

Re: Regional Backbone Blackspots – Broken Hill to Adelaide

Dear Minister,

Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council would like to offer support for construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia, as part of the Federal Government's recent 'Backbone Blackspots' announcements.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our district and our state, with a considerable proportion of our community and industry unable to access a reliable, modern and affordable terrestrial broadband service.

In particular, our Council is prepared to work closely with Federal and State Government, along with the private sector to facilitate such a route including consideration, as appropriate for:

- Funding support for local 'breakout points' in our district
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information
- Advice on local development application and approval procedures
- Local project promotion and publicity
- Coordination with various Government agencies or key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example rail and road corridors and other public easements

Please feel free to contact me on 08) 88426400 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,


for Roy Blight
Chief Executive Officer



Amalgamated 1997

District Council of Peterborough

Email: council@peterborough.sa.gov.au

POSTAL ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 121
PETERBOROUGH S.A. 5422
Phone: (08) 8651 3566
Fax: (08) 8651 3066

19.85.1

Ms Anita Crisp
Chief Executive Officer
Central Local Government Region of Councils
PO Box 168
CRYSTAL BROOK SA 5523

22nd July 2009

Dear Anita,

Re:- Broadband – Backhaul Blackspots Initiative

Thank you for attending the Council meeting on Monday night and explaining the Federal Government's initiative in regard to the above.

Council supports the Region's application for the Broadband Backhaul between Broken Hill and Adelaide. We see it as a real opportunity for all the communities on the proposed route to be brought into the 21st Century and if approved, will really benefit Peterborough's economic competitiveness.

Thank you for having the initiative and we hope you are successful.

Yours faithfully,

Terry D Barnes
Chief Executive Officer

4 August 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

The Northern Areas Council would like to offer support for construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide, via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia, as part of the Federal Government's recent 'Backbone Blackspots' announcements.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our district and our state, with a considerable proportion of our community and industry unable to access a reliable, modern and affordable terrestrial broadband service.

In particular, our Council is prepared to work closely with Federal and State Government, along with the private sector to facilitate such a route including consideration, as appropriate for:

- Funding support for local 'breakout points' in our district
- Advice on local property, cadastral and infrastructure information
- Advice on local development application and approval procedures
- Local project promotion and publicity
- Coordination with various Government agencies or key industries in relation to access to public lands including, for example, rail and road corridors and other public easements

Please feel free to contact me on
further information.

should you require any

Yours sincerely

Keith Hope
Chief Executive Officer

Ref

File: CLGR/Broadband 01.doc



MID NORTH

Regional Development Board Inc.

2/17 Lennon Street, Clare SA 5453

Tel:(08) 8842 3115

Fax:(08) 8842 1275

info@mnrdb.com.au

www.mnrdb.com.au

ABN: 96 728 775 762

5 August 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Conroy,

Re: Broken Hill to Adelaide Fibre Optic Route

The Mid North Regional Development Board provides this letter in support in relation to the construction of a fibre optic backbone from Broken Hill to Adelaide.

MNRDB is a not for profit organisation funded by state and local government in the Regional Council of Goyder and Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council regions to promote and facilitate sustainable economic development.

In conjunction with the Central Local Government Region we have provided a submission to the Department of Broadband Communication and the Digital Economy which supports the demand for high speed broadband in the region and construction of a fibre optic link from Broken Hill to Adelaide.

The restricted ability to access adequate broadband services, and the availability of a reliable and robust technology, in the region is a major impediment to business growth across the Mid North of South Australia.

MNRDB believe that the construction of a fibre optic route from Broken Hill to Adelaide would immediately stimulate the economy across the north of South Australia. In particular it would provide a solution to businesses that currently do not have access to terrestrial broadband.

Please feel free to contact us with any queries in relation to this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Kelly-Anne Saffin
Chief Executive Officer



ABN 70 509 677 325

2 Elizabeth Street
PO Box 767
Tanunda SA 5235

Telephone: (08) 8563 3603
Facsimile: (08) 8563 3584
Email: admin@bld.org.au
Website: www.bld.org.au

3 August 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Conroy

Broken Hill to Adelaide backhaul route

The Barossa & Light Regional Development Board Inc is pleased to support the case for the establishment of the Fibre cable backhaul to Broken Hill from Adelaide, via the Barossa Valley.

There are a number of reasons in favour of this route which support greater economic returns than an alternative route.

Practicality/ease of access

There is a rail corridor from Adelaide through to Gawler and on to Stockwell, which (subject to access rights) provides a practical and cost effective path for the fibre channel, with minimal disruption to built up areas yet adjacent to significant take off opportunity.

Density of global business

More than 60% of The Barossa (State Government) region's population of 65,000 is located in Gawler and the Barossa Valley, near the rail corridor. The Barossa Valley has a strong multinational business presence and a wine industry and wine industry services industry that operate globally. The imperative for take up of high speed services is strong and will translate to export earnings immediately, given the existing presence in export markets.

Health and Education users

The Barossa region has a growing education sector with TAFE colleges adjacent to this corridor (with international student enrolments) and a number of executive education and ongoing learning providers based within the region. BLD's strategic plan includes the establishment of a virtual University within the Barossa to develop accessibility to tertiary education from the region. There are two high schools and ten primary schools adjacent to the Barossa line and 10 schools in Gawler.

There are 3 busy modern GP clinics and two small hospitals in the Barossa with a new Barossa Hospital integrated with a primary health care facility prioritized in the region's infrastructure plan and endorsed as a priority by federal and state governments. There is a busy hospital/health service in Gawler. Across the region is a strong (though not as strong as the demand) allied health presence.

The Digital Regions Initiative supports the introduction of Fibre cable to the Barossa to drive the enablement of innovative digital projects across industry and education, health and emergency services. This opportunity for directing the cable through the Barossa Valley supports and advances the Digital Regions Initiative at the least cost.

Population

With a growing population with more than 60% connected to the internet (with a significant number still using dial up according to the recent census figures), there is the opportunity to

bring high speed internet to those willing to adopt new technology and internet access at relatively little cost. With new Greenfield developments under consideration (both industrial and residential), the opportunity for fibre connections to the new premises is now.

Given that the Fibre to Broken Hill project is a confirmed priority, routing it through or by the Barossa Valley rail corridor provides the opportunity to increase the fibre rollout to a significant number of rural industries, businesses, homes, health and education services in a cost effective and logistically realistic pathway to increase the competitiveness of local industry and maximize the economic returns to the government and private sector contractor.

I commend the route through Barossa and Clare Valleys as a cost effective option to deliver on the promise of the Australian Governments National Broadband initiative.

Yours sincerely

Anne Moroney
Chief Executive Officer

NORTHERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC.

NRDB



HIGHWAY 1
PO BOX 1762
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

P. 08 8641 1444
F. 08 8642 6951
E. reception@nrdb.com.au
W. www.nrdb.com.au

31 July, 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter is in support of the proposal from the Central Local Government Region and Mid North Regional Development Board to the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy for the financial support for laying of fibre optic via Broken Hill to Adelaide.

The Northern Regional Development Board is responsible for the economic development of a number of communities along that route (specifically the communities between Cockburn on the NSW border through to Peterborough).

Along this route are a number of prospective mining ventures together with the recently announced Honeymoon Uranium Mine being developed by Mitsui and Uranium One as well as the major township of Peterborough. Our Board has been in discussions with a major resource processing developer who is looking to establish a significant facility on the outskirts of Peterborough. Through all of our work with these parties, we are aware of the pressing need for enhanced broadband.

The initiative of the Central Local Government Region and Mid North Regional Development Board is strongly supported by the Board and I encourage the Department to consider the proposal favourably.

Yours sincerely

Jerry Johnson

CEO



SOUTHERN FLINDERS RANGES DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC.

Incorporating the Port Pirie Regional Council and the District Council of
Mount Remarkable and Northern Areas Council

85 Ellen Street, Port Pirie, South Australia 5540
Telephone (08) 8632 5633
Fax (08) 8632 5724
Email: board@sfrdb.com.au
Website: www.sfrdb.com.au
ABN 17 740 055 872

3rd August 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Regional Backbone Blackspots – Broken Hill to Adelaide

Dear Minister

The Southern Flinders Ranges Development Board Inc offers its support for the construction of a fibre broadband backhaul route from Broken Hill to Adelaide via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia.

Incorporation of rural centres through the Mid North and Barossa regions on this backhaul route will significantly improve access to modern broadband services for residential, business and public sector users.

Access to competitive backhaul services is critical to our long term commitment to increase access and utilisation of broadband within industry. This initiative will help achieve that goal.

We fully support our local government partners and neighbouring Regional Development Organisations who are actively working on the abovementioned proposal. We believe the long-term benefits of the proposed route make a compelling case.

Yours sincerely

Mark Malcolm
Chief Executive Officer

Phone
Email



Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

31 July 2009

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

Dear Minister

I am writing to indicate the strong support of the tourism industry in the Flinders Ranges and Outback region of South Australia for the construction of proposed fibre broadband backbone links from Broken Hill to Adelaide via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia and from Darwin to Port Augusta.

I do so not just from the perspective of my own agency, FROSAT, which is the regional tourism organisation for part of the zone covered by the two links. I am also a member of the Project Management Committee of the Flinders Ranges National Landscape, which Minister for Tourism Ferguson is to launch officially on 7 August. Finally, and perhaps most pertinently, I am the convenor of the Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Integrated Strategic Tourism Plan Implementation Committee. The Committee is charged with overseeing the plan, which was finalised in late 2008, and draws together a range of stakeholder agencies and tourism industry representatives.

In all three forums, but particularly the last, the issue of broadband and mobile phone coverage in remote (and not so remote) tourism zones has emerged as an issue of increasing concern. In the last few weeks members of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee have noted that the Plan as drafted somewhat remarkably lacked an action related to this topic. Our attention has been drawn to it by a range of incidents and complaints from across the region.

To summarise why the region's tourism industry strongly supports the bid by the Mid North Regional Development Board:

- Poor or non-existent access to broad band impedes the business of tourism. It is immensely frustrating to operators trying to deal with everything from online bookings – increasingly important to tourism businesses – to accessing data, industry information and other resources which rural and regional businesses rely on.
- Tourists, especially from the lucrative international market, are astonished to find that they cannot readily access the internet even in some of the more settled parts of the Flinders Ranges and Outback region.

Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Inc.
Port Augusta Business Centre, Suite 20, Lot 500 Stirling Road
PO Box 287 Port Augusta SA 5700
Tel: (08) 8641 3455 Fax: (08) 8641 3477
www.flindersoutback.com

- The lack of internet and mobile telephony access is also being linked increasingly with concern in country communities that health services are shrinking. This is a particular issue in places where, while the settled population is small, the numbers of tourists annually are considerably greater. A town like Peterborough is an important wayfaring node for tourists entering the region via several interstate routes. Hawker, further north, services a huge tourism sector. Anything which in time can extend the mantle of safety in regions serviced by such towns where tourists can find themselves alone and needing to call on medical support would be warmly welcomed by the industry.
- The periodic flooding of Lake Eyre –which has taken place this year – is always revealing in showing up cracks in the provision of infrastructure and services in the region. In that regard it is great to note that the Federal government has just announced grants of several million dollars to upgrade important aerodromes in the Outback region. The three remaining major infrastructure issues for the region are road maintenance, potable water and – broadband services/mobile telephony.

I would be happy to discuss this letter of endorsement further with staff appraising the Mid North Regional Development Board's bid. I repeat that the tourism industry in the Flinders Ranges and Outback region is desperate for better broadband/telephony services.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Cahalan
Regional Tourism Manager
Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism



4 August 2009

Senator, the Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

RE: REGIONAL BACKBONE BLACKSPOTS – BROKEN HILL TO ADELAIDE

On behalf of the Outback Areas Community Development Trust (the Trust), I am writing to you to confirm the Trust's strong support for the recent announcement by the Australian Government to embark upon a major long-term national broadband network build coupled with a Backbone Blackspots program, providing a realistic opportunity to resolving the short term 'digital divide' for many communities in our region, within a longer term planning and infrastructure context.

The Trust, a State Government Statutory Authority responsible for limited 'local governance' over two thirds of the State's landmass, believe that many communities would benefit from the construction of proposed fibre broadband backbone links from Broken Hill to Adelaide via the Mid North and Barossa regions in South Australia and Darwin to Port Augusta in the remote far north region.

Access to competitive backhaul is a major impediment to the wide availability of affordable and modern broadband services in our region and our state, with a considerable proportion of our constituent community and industry unable to access reliable, modern and affordable terrestrial broadband services.

The outback of South Australia is facing unprecedented change, primarily based upon economic opportunity associated with a burgeoning mining industry and expanding tourism industry, both of whom would significantly benefit from access to high speed and reliable broadband internet access. These increased economic opportunities will also benefit outback communities seeking to galvanise their long term economic sustainability through employment, service and support for the opportunities.

High speed and reliable broadband will also provide opportunity to bridge the significant tyranny of distance through the innovative application of historically unreachable services, including, real time tele-medicine, educational delivery for members of the community and broad scale community engagement.

The emergency services sector would also be a beneficiary through the application of real time telemetric monitoring of road and aerodrome conditions that are critical in providing appropriate management in times of crisis and emergency.

The Trust's empowering Legislation clearly stipulates, under its powers and functions, it is *to carry out works to improve, or otherwise to promote or facilitate the improvement of, communications to country districts (whether within or outside the area)*. The Trust is committed to this function and is prepared to work closely with Federal and State Government, along with the private sector to facilitate such a route and would be willing to offer our local assistance and support where appropriate.

I would be very pleased to discuss our position with you further if required and can be contacted on

Yours sincerely

Mark Sutton
Manager