



## **Broadening the debate on the NBN**

The House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications today released its report on the role and potential of the National Broadband Network.

The report outlines many of the substantial benefits that will be available to the community following the NBN roll out including high definition videoconferencing which will:

- enable increased tele-working;
- improve remote consultations with health specialists for people in rural areas;
- enhance online education opportunities; and
- bring new opportunities for regional businesses.

Committee Chair Ms Sharon Bird MP said: 'This report looks at the how the fibre-to-the-premises infrastructure of the NBN will improve economic and regional development, enhance various sectors of government service delivery, and help those who are isolated in our communities to connect to the services they need.'

'The Committee heard about exciting developments and applications being used in education, health, business and agriculture,' Ms Bird said.

'How we work and live has been transformed by past technological developments and there is no reason to consider that this won't continue at exponential rates over the next thirty years.'

'A key message from the inquiry was that while the NBN will be enabling infrastructure for a range of social and economic benefits across all sectors, the recommendations support actions to build the 'demand side' needed to maximise the potential of the NBN,' Ms Bird said.

A total of 252 written submissions were received canvassing a range of topics related to the potential impact of the NBN including government services, health, education, infrastructure, research, and community and social issues. In addition, the Committee conducted 15 public hearings at 12 different locations around Australia including all of the major capital cities, Launceston, Hobart, Ballarat, Victor Harbor, Townsville, and Wollongong.

The report is available on the Committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ic/NBN/report.htm>

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Sharon Bird, on (02) 6277 4717

**Further information:** contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 2352, email [ic.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ic.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ic>