



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

28 June 2007

Opel Broadband coverage map for New England Electorate released

The Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has received a map from the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, showing the proposed coverage of the Federal Government's recently announced Opel Wireless (Wimax) coverage and Opel ADSL2+ exchange locations within the New England Electorate.

Whilst welcoming the Department's release of the map, Mr Windsor said he is concerned about large regions within the Electorate which are not covered by either the proposed wireless or ADSL2+ services, where the only option for broadband access appears to be via satellite services. Some of these areas include locations such as Wollomombi, Hillgrove, Enmore, Winterbourne, Moona, Ramukka, Tia, Nowendoc, Aberbaldie, Woolbrook, Upper Horton, regions around Barraba and Bingara, Myall Creek, Yetman, Bonshaw and numerous other localities.

Mr Windsor said that whilst people residing in areas with only satellite broadband coverage will be able to access subsidised services via the Australian Broadband Guarantee, it would appear that residents in these regions will still have no other broadband options available to them.

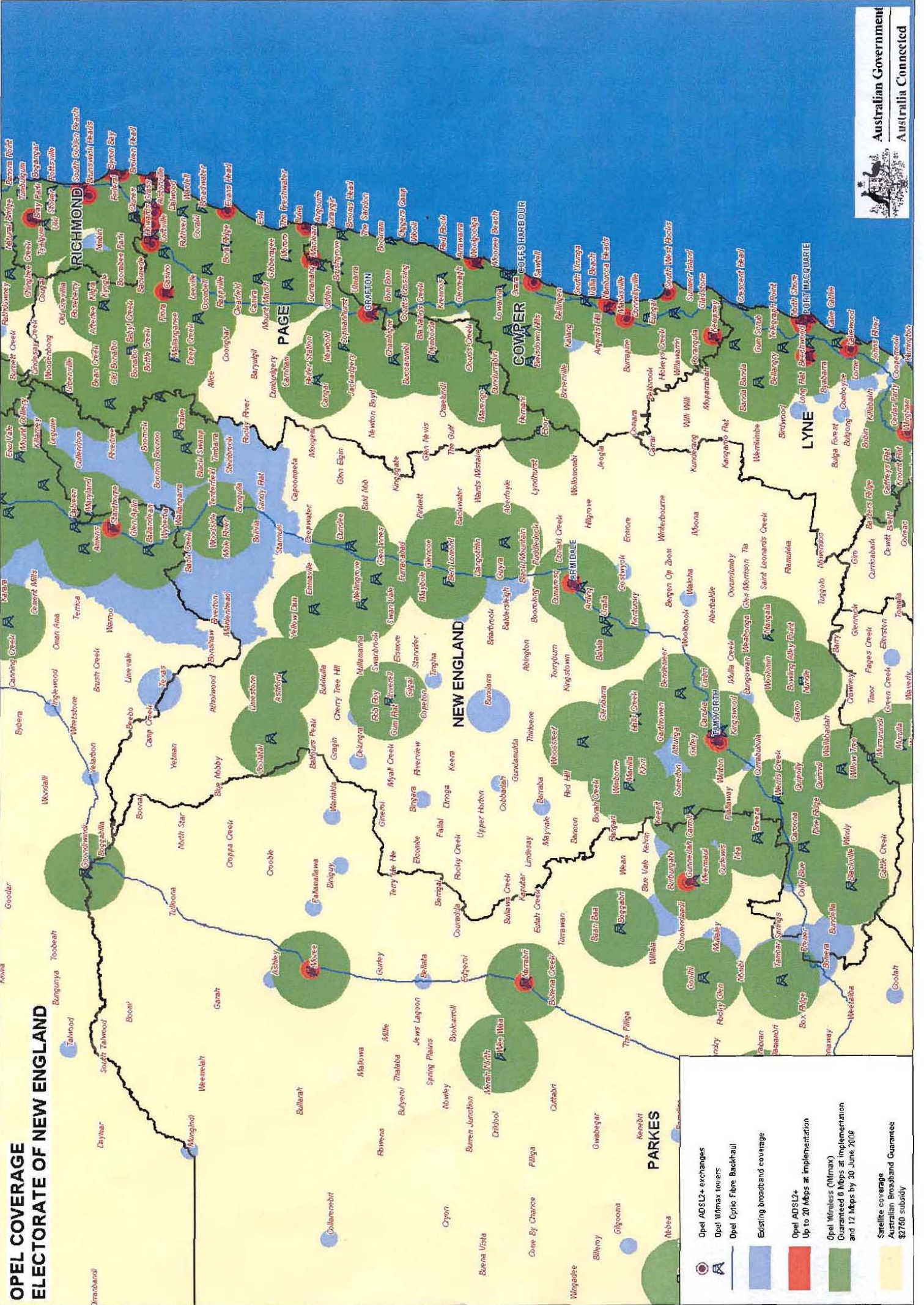
Mr Windsor also queried the uniform circular coverage of the proposed Wimax towers noting that consideration does not appear to have been given to the possible effects of terrain in a number of the proposed tower locations.

"It would appear that the projected Wimax coverage in a number of centres within the New England Electorate will need further clarification and I will be making additional inquiries in relation to the proposed services," Mr Windsor said.

"Given the projected increase of required Internet connection speeds to obtain proper access to online services in coming years, it will be critical that the ALL residents in Australia have access to quality high speed broadband services so that country residents are not once again penalised simply because of location", Mr Windsor said.

Opel coverage map of the New England Electorate is attached.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868



OPEL COVERAGE ELECTORATE OF NEW ENGLAND

	Opel AD SL+ exchanges
	Opel Wimax towers
	Opel Opto Fibre Backhaul
	Existing broadband coverage
	Opel AD SL+ Up to 20 Mbps at implementation
	Opel Wireless (Wimax) Guaranteed 8 Mbps at implementation and 12 Mbps by 30 June 2018
	Satellite coverage Australian Broadband Guarantee \$2750 subsidy