



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor welcomes Optus 3G mobile expansion in New England

Optus' announcement that they will be expanding their 3G mobile network in the New England has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

According to Optus, they will be providing nineteen new base stations including at Ashford, Barraba, Bingara, Bundarra, Drake, Ebor, Elcombe, Emmaville, Gilgai, Graman, Manilla, Niangala, Tingha, Upper Horton, Upper Manilla, Urbenville, Walcha, Woolomin and Yetman and upgrading five base stations in the region at Armidale's UNE, Delungra, Elsmore, Invergowrie and Kootingal.

Optus' announcement indicates that this expansion will take place over the next 18 months.

"I welcome the Optus announcement to expand their 3G mobile network in the New England region as part of their nationwide expansion commitment to cover 98% of Australians.

It is particularly pleasing to see the number of smaller communities to be covered by Optus and I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate them on their decision to put their service into these communities.

The people of these smaller communities deserve and need access to a quality mobile and broadband network and I hope all runs smoothly in Optus' delivery to these people," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has again urged the Federal Government to have a close look at the Regional Powered Tower Program that he put to the former Government.

"With Optus' announcement of establishing new tower sites, the new Federal Government has an opportunity to encourage an even greater coverage and competition into smaller areas.

The Regional Powered Tower Program that I put to the previous Minister for consideration has merit for delivering a wider spread service through the Government funding new towers and getting power to them.

The service provider then only has to fund their equipment on the tower thereby greatly reducing their outlay but more importantly, providing an opportunity for smaller remote communities access to the latest technology and compete on world markets without having to leave home, something that has been spoken about for so long but not delivered," Mr Windsor said

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868