



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Terria “Bush first” Broadband proposal could boost country opportunities

A consortium of telcos led by Optus bidding for the National Broadband Network contract will be in Tamworth tomorrow (Thursday 20th November) to promote their proposal to roll out broadband to country communities before capital cities.

The group known as “Terria” will be providing information to industry and community leaders at the Good Companions Hotel Conference Rooms from 10.30am.

Terria Chair, Michael Egan will be one of the speakers to outline how their service will work.

Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor will be a keen observer at the meeting as he has long been a vocal campaigner for equity of access to telecommunication services for country people.

“Country people have suffered at the hands of the previous Government in their selling off of Telstra without having adequate guarantees “enshrined” in legislation as they claimed.

The Glasson Regional Telecommunications Review has confirmed what country people have known all along that they have been treated as second class citizens with their telecommunication services lagging behind the city.

If the Terria consortium is offering a country-first approach which will address the needs of country people then I think it must be considered.

The opportunities that will open up for country people through having access to better telecommunication services will be great and will not hinder the development of city services where the free-market will drive its growth without Government support,” Mr Windsor said.

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