



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Plan for NBN Rollout for region to be developed

Windsor convening small working group

Following on from the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy's visit this week, the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor will be convening a small working group to develop a plan for the New England North West to present to the about to be formed company that will be charged with the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The Minister indicated at a forum in Tamworth on Monday that the company currently known as NBN Co and Chaired by Mr Mike Quigley would be looking for areas that are ready to go and in need of service delivery improvement.

Mr Windsor had a private meeting with Minister Conroy after the Forum at which a draft proposal for the region was explained by a very well qualified community member.

"The Minister was very encouraging at the Forum for the region to get a plan together and develop a case for why the New England North West would be a good early option for the NBN Co to invest in early.

"I was delighted to hear the Minister provide such encouragement as the region has a number of very well qualified technical people who have already started to develop a strong case that can be expanded on to submit to NBN Co and the reasons why we should be viewed as a region that would benefit greatly from being one of the first cabs off the rank in the NBN rollout.

"A major reason stems from the New England being the hardest hit by lightning strikes particularly across the granite country.

"This being a fact, the NBN rollout would reduce the costly loss and repair of telecommunication services through the replacement of copper wire with optical fibre and thereby lightning strikes would have no effect on optical fibre.

"The National Broadband Network rollout is very important to regional Australia in negating the often clichéd 'tyranny of distance'.

The New England North West needs to be in a position to act quickly and I look forward to working with the group to put our case forward," Mr Windsor said.

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