



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080

Toll Free: 1300 301 839

Fax: (02) 6761 3380

e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

Media Release

2 March 2010

Armidale a “First Release site” for NBN rollout great news

“Great exciting news” was the reaction of the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor when he was told of the choice of Armidale as one of five first release sites for the rollout of the National Broadband Network.

The announcement was made by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Senator Stephen Conroy and the NBN Co Chief Executive Officer, Mike Quigley.

“It’s great exciting news that will lay the foundations for the future rollout to other parts of the New England.

“I thank the Minister, Senator Conroy and NBN Co Limited’s CEO Mike Quigley for their choice of Armidale as one of the first release sites and will be very happy to work with them and the Armidale Dumaresq Council, the University of New England and community members to ensure it is a smooth rollout that enables NBN Co to fine tune their processes and proceed on to other locations in the New England electorate.

“As I have said before, telecommunications infrastructure is the 21st century railway.

“Its successful rollout will negate the vast distances we have in Australia helping to make our regional businesses more competitive and open up more opportunities,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said he believed the foundations of the decision to choose Armidale go back to Minister Conroy’s visit to Tamworth in September 2009 when he addressed a large group of community leaders from across the region.

“The Minister was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the people from the New England electorate for access to the new National Broadband Network that was clearly evident at the meeting he attended and addressed in September last year.

“The follow up to that meeting I also believe has played a significant part in Armidale getting this guernsey.

“I particularly thank Alun Davies (former Telstra Country Wide) and David Jones (a Consulting Engineer and Inverell Shire Councillor) for their commitment to presenting the region’s case to the appropriate people.

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

“They put together a proposal that included support letters from Councils and individuals from across the electorate and attended a number of forums and meetings putting forward the opportunities for NBN Co Limited that the New England area had for the rollout of the high speed fibre-to-the-premise network.

“I thank the Councils, UNE and other individuals for their input and support.

“The support also shown for the NBN rollout at the Vision New England Summit late last year also indicated the broader region was very much behind the concept and the benefits that it would bring to the region.

“All in all, I am sure that the scrum that packed behind this opportunity has helped get it over the line and I now look forward to the benefits flowing both to the community and NBN Co Limited,” Mr Windsor said.