



SENATOR THE HON STEPHEN CONROY

MINISTER FOR BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

Councillor Geoff Lake
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

ALGA MAIL	
ITEM No:	262
DATE RECEIVED:	26.11.2009
FILE No:	23 NOV 2009

Dear Councillor ^{Geoff} Lake

National Broadband Network – 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government

Thank you for your letter dated 18 September 2009 concerning Resolution 37 of the 2009 National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) relating to the National Broadband Network.

I would also like to thank the ALGA for its support of the National Broadband Network and we look forward to working with the ALGA and local councils as the roll-out progresses.

In relation to the Assembly's resolution, the Commonwealth remains committed to roll-out the National Broadband Network as quickly as possible. To turn its vision into action the Government has:

- appointed the board of NBN Co Limited, including Mr Mike Quigley as Chair and Chief Executive Officer;
- made a commitment to an initial investment in the network of \$4.7 billion;
- appointed a consortium of McKinsey & Company and KPMG as the Lead Adviser of the implementation study that will determine, amongst other things, the operating arrangements, ways to attract private sector investment and provide procurement opportunities for local businesses;
- commenced the first stage of the roll-out of a FTTP network and next generation wireless services in Tasmania;
- commenced evaluation of tenders to build, operate and maintain competitive transmission links to six priority locations under the \$250 million Regional Backbone Blackspots Program;
- introduced legislation into Parliament to facilitate access to network information that could support the roll-out of the network from carriers and utilities;

- introduced a package of historic reforms to the existing telecommunications regulatory regime; and
- undertaken consultation on legislation to implement the requirement that FTTP be installed in greenfield estates, and the legislative framework to govern NBN Co Limited.

As I have said many times, once it is underway, I expect the roll-out will take place in multiple locations simultaneously.

In relation to point 3 of the resolution, as you will be aware, the Government has undertaken an extensive consultation program with a wide range of stakeholders. With respect to greenfield sites, the Fibre in Greenfields Stakeholder Reference Group which the Government has formed includes in its work program the development of legislation, standards, guidelines and accreditation for telecommunications infrastructure. The participation of the ALGA in the Group has been most valuable.

Industry and other organisations are also being engaged in a consultation process during the Implementation Study for the NBN.

ALGA and local councils are also welcome to contact me or my Department at any time to discuss communications issues directly.

Thank you for bringing the Assembly's resolution to my attention. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy