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Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Federal Government Review of The National Broadband Network

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Federal Government Review of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

Council is aware that the Department of Communications has committed to undertake a series of reviews into the NBN in order to refocus the rollout around its policy objectives, which include using a wider range of technologies to connect homes and businesses to the network.

Although Council appreciates that a prime objective of the review is aimed at assessing the cost and timeline for delivery under the current specifications and an examination of the options available to the government using different technologies, Council provides the following submission to the review panel to ensure that the current rollout plan for fibre to the premises, continues as previously announced for the NSW Central Coast region.

In 2009, the NSW Central Coast formed an unprecedented partnership between Local, State and Federal Government, community groups, business leaders and local government agencies, to promote and lobby for the early rollout of the NBN and to leverage the technology as an essential driver to create successful growth for the region.

This united regional effort led to former Prime Minister Julia Gillard announcing in 2011 that the early rollout of the NBN would include Long Jetty and Gosford.

The Central Coast embraced the announcement as residents, business and investors appreciated that the region would greatly benefit from early access to the NBN, which would drive business and investment growth for the region, create new educational opportunities, encourage innovation and increase employment opportunities across the NSW Central Coast.

Prior to the commencement of the Central Coast National Broadband Network rollout, the region formed the Central Coast Broadband Implementation Group (CCBIG), representing regional stakeholders to proactively support the stimulation of the local digital economy by informing the region of the opportunities associated with the early rollout of the NBN and

to identify and seek business growth, investment and development opportunities arising from the rollout of high speed broadband within the region.

The significance of the local NBN rollout was also represented by its inclusion in key NSW Central Coast local planning documents including the Central Coast Regional Plan 2011-2015 (an amalgamation of both Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils' most recent Community Strategic Plans aiming to provide all levels of government with a clear road map for the Central Coast), the Central Coast Regional Economic Development and Employment Strategy (REDES) and the NSW Government's Central Coast Regional Action Plan.

To ensure that the region has ubiquitous access to the NBN and the continuation of current and proposed economic and community development initiatives associated with the rollout of high speed broadband fibre to the premise technology in the region, Gosford Council supports the proposed local initiative for the NSW Central Coast to become a pilot region for the complete roll out of fibre to the premise; providing the Federal Government a living cost-benefit analysis of the value of a predominantly fibre optic broadband rollout.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the review and would appreciate the review committee taking into consideration Council's concerns and recommendations in their deliberations at the review into the National Broadband Network.

Yours sincerely

Paul Anderson
General Manager

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