

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Inquiry into the National Broadband Network

*Chair: Sharon Bird MP
Deputy Chair: Paul Neville MP***NBN inquiry to visit Ballarat and Melbourne**

The House of Representatives Infrastructure and Communications Committee is conducting an inquiry into the **role and potential of the National Broadband Network (NBN)**. The Committee will conduct public hearings this week in **Ballarat** (Thursday 17 March) and **Melbourne** (Friday 18 March).

“The NBN will have an impact on almost every sector of our society, so the committee is looking forward to consulting with a wide range of organisations during our two days in Victoria”, said the Chair Sharon Bird (Member for Cunningham) today.

“Ballarat has a particularly strong ICT sector for a city of its size and in Melbourne we will be talking with some of the nation’s leading universities and non-for-profit organisations” she added.

The hearing programs are as follows:

THURSDAY 17 MARCH - BALLARAT (Trench Room, Ballarat Town Hall)

10.00 am	Ballarat City Council
10.30 am	University of Ballarat - Centre for eCommerce and Communications
11.00 am	Ballarat ICT Ltd
11.30 am	Grampians Rural Health Alliance
12.00 pm	Lateral Plains Pty Ltd

FRIDAY 18 MARCH - MELBOURNE (Room G.6, 55 St Andrews Place)

9:00 am	Open Universities Australia
9:45 am	Monash University
10:45 am	Institute for a Broadband Enabled Society
11:30 am	Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union
1:15 pm	Siemens Ltd
2:00 pm	The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
2:45 pm	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

This hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

The Committee has received around 200 written submissions to date, and late submissions are still being accepted. Previous public hearings have been held in Hobart, Launceston and Canberra.

Further details about the inquiry, including copies of submissions received to date and transcripts of previous hearings as they become available, can be obtained from the Committee’s website.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Sharon Bird, on (02) 6277 4717 (Parliament House) or (02) 4228 5899 (electorate office)

For details about the inquiry and hearing arrangements: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ic>