

**NARRABRI
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

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General Enquiries
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Water Billing
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Sundry Debtor Enquiries
(02) 6799 6846

Rates (02) 6799 6845

Health, Building, Town
Planning and Animal Control
(02) 6799 6855

Engineering Services

Roads, Water and Sewer,
Saleyards, Parks & Gardens,
Garbage (02) 6799 6877

Swimming Pools
Boggabri (02) 6743 4379
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Wee Waa (02) 6795 4384

Libraries

Boggabri (02) 6743 4281
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Wee Waa (02) 6795 3064

The Crossing Theatre

General Information and
Bookings (02) 6792 4654

Movie Information
(02) 6792 2488

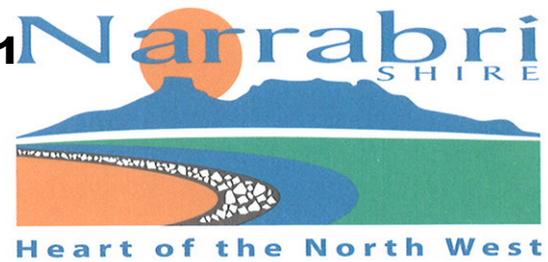
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Submission 054

Date received 23/02/2011



Our Reference: AEF:AEF
Your Reference:
Contact Name: Alice Freeman
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Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

23 February 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thankyou for providing Council the opportunity to respond to the inquiry into the National Broadband Network. Council has responded to each of the areas highlighted by the committee. The responses to these areas are outlined below:

a) the delivery of government services and programmes;

The National Broadband Network will provide the ability to access the State and Commonwealth government databases to download information including the following:

- Updated rating information
- Give all parties the ability to lodge electronic Development Applications enabling quicker processing and turnaround times
- Allow more detailed higher resolution Geographic Information Systems data to be accessed and downloaded. It will also enable more detailed information to be collected, transferred and utilised through future technologies such as Light Detection and Ranging applications.

More detailed Council information will be able to be provided and community accessibility to local assets will be enhanced through the individual's ability to be able to access and book facilities such as parks, pools, tennis courts, etc. This would represent a resource saving to Council who currently have to manually book these facilities.

b) achieving health outcomes;

Narrabri Shire is currently building a new hospital. Faster broadband would allow medical advice and consultations to be undertaken online through a webcam or video conferencing. Further, the ability to send high resolution photos of a patient's medical condition or x-rays to a city based specialist that may allow accurate diagnosis without the need for travel from either party. Separately, it would allow for the storage and recovery of a patient's medical information online and remote monitoring.

c) improving the educational resources and training available for teachers and students;

Allow regional students the ability to access through webcam or video conferencing real time lectures and tutorials at universities. This would also allow the ability to replay the lecture or tutorial for clarification purposes.

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Some schools do not have enough students to form a class, for example information technology. Faster broadband would allow those students to access a sister school who offers the information technology subject and enable them to undertake the class.

Students who cannot get access to a substantial university library will be able to undertake research for assignments online and download some of the substantial detailed information quickly eliminating time out problems.

d) the management of Australia's built and natural resources and environmental sustainability;

A hand held device that could for example plot weed incursions that could be uploaded and shared with staff at Council as well as all levels of government and their respective agencies. This would enable a more direct spraying routine to be employed in an effort to eradicate the pest. Further it would allow access to government databases that may have insight into methods of controlling weeds as well as revegetation and erosion control.

e) impacting regional economic growth and employment opportunities;

With the overcrowding of Australia's major cities and the proposed strong population increase over the next 50 years, it is a prime time to attract businesses and individuals to the regions. To make the move as seamless as possible for a city based business to a regional area, then the ability to access faster internet speeds would lessen one aspect of the move. It would also not put regional businesses at a disadvantage to city based companies as both would be working on a similar if not the same speed, allowing the same research to be undertaken and peer or industry discussions to be held.

f) impacting business efficiencies and revenues, particularly for small and medium businesses, and Australia's export market;

Ability to sell to and promote product to a global market place, thereby expanding reach and customer base and increasing revenue and margins without being cost prohibitive. Be able to interact with the businesses underlying industry world wide and access latest innovations and advancements in product, design and development.

Allows small business to be able to make and receive calls while having online access concurrently.
Opens up another level of possibility for people interested in going into small business or e business.

g) interaction with research and development and related innovation investments;

Allows a percentage of research to be undertaken locally by being able to access state, national and international libraries and dedicated or industry specific databases. Able to send and receive substantial data transfer and information securely and quickly. Allows industry and peer discussions inclusive of information and knowledge transfer in real time.

h) facilitating community and social benefits; and

Information sharing, timings and calendar for events etc amongst community organisations inclusive of cultural and sporting groups. Allow networking between individuals and community groups.

i) the optimal capacity and technological requirements of a network to deliver these outcomes.

The optic fibre infrastructure should be able to maximise the current hardware capacity and allow for future advances in technology development and community servicing.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bill Birch
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER