



Our Ref: 2801405
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24 February 2011

Mr A McGowan
Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr McGowan

New Inquiry Into The National Broadband Network

I am writing in response to your letter of 9 December 2010 calling for submissions regarding the National Broadband Network.

The City of Penrith has been recognised as a Regional City under the NSW State Government's Metropolitan Strategy, helping ensure Penrith will enjoy the benefits of Sydney's growth during the next 25 years. Under this regional city status there will be a greater diversity and range of quality jobs, commercial, retail, health, cultural, recreation, entertainment and lifestyle opportunities for the residents of Penrith City. This strong local economy, one that is able to provide for and attract quality jobs, is a key part of the City of Penrith's sustainable future.

Although recognised as a Regional City there are large parts of the Penrith City Local Government area (LGA) that are not serviced by high speed broadband. ADSL2 is not available due to distance from exchanges and wireless reception is also poor in some areas.

The delivery of a fast, low cost, communication link will enable the Penrith City LGA to meet its goal of providing a more sustainable community. It will enable our students to be involved in study opportunities not available locally without having to travel; it will give opportunities for commuters to partake in work from home schemes and spend more time with their families; it will enable our local University and TAFEs to have a greater reach into the broader community; it will enable our non English speaking residents greater access into our community as well as maintaining contact with family and friends in their country of origin.

A major project at Penrith City Council in 2011 is the building of a new website. One of the primary drivers for this project is to make as many services as possible available through the new website. The provision of a low cost, fast, internet service amongst our community would greatly increase the ability of our residents and business partners to deal with us at their leisure rather than having to attend a council office in person.

These benefits can not be realised until our community has access to high speed internet access and although Penrith City Council is a metropolitan Council it has many rural areas within its borders that do not have access to ADSL or ADSL2 connections. For this reason I believe that Penrith City Council LGA would be an ideal candidate for an early connection to the NBN.

I trust these comments are beneficial to the Committee undertaking this enquiry.

Yours faithfully

Barry Husking
Director