



Moreland City Council

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Mr Andrew McGowan
Inquiry Secretary
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Dear Mr McGowan

NEW INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

I refer to your letter dated 9 December 2010 providing Council with the opportunity to make a submission to the New Inquiry into the National Broadband Network.

Council supports the rollout of the National Broadband Network and the impact that the roll out will make to the built environment if infrastructure is located underground/co-located on existing infrastructure.

Clause 21.05-5 of Moreland's Municipal Strategic Statement seeks to "develop street landscapes which provide more shade, more greenery and natural habitat throughout the city" with one strategy to achieve this being to "minimise the visual impact of telecommunication and electrical cables and associated infrastructure on streetscape design". More specifically, Council's Relocation of Overhead Cables Strategy Policy, August 2000 (currently under review) is a reference document to this policy and specifies:

"While recognising that electricity and telecommunications infrastructure are essential elements which enhance social interaction, promote community safety and create comfortable living environments, Moreland City Council has stated a commitment to the phasing out of overhead cables (Moreland Plan 1997) and minimising the health, safety and amenity implications of electricity and telecommunications infrastructure generally. The Council believes that the environmental, amenity, health and urban design benefits related to the relocation of cables make it imperative that a comprehensive relocation program is facilitated through all levels of government in cooperation with private sector bodies."

Further, Council held early discussions with the Department of Planning and Community Development about the potential for the Government to amend all Victorian Planning Schemes to exempt works associated with the National Broadband Network from the need to obtain a planning permit. This issue was raised in the context of the potential for the planning process to significantly slow down the roll out of the pilot projects.

Should the National Broadband Network be rolled out Moreland sees the potential for the delivery of a number of Local Government services including:

Language Link

中文	9280 1910	Español	9280 1916
Italiano	9280 1911	Hrvatski	9280 1917
Ελληνικά	9280 1912	हिन्दी	9280 1918
العربية	9280 1913		
Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
Việt Nam	9280 1915	9280 1919	

- a) *The delivery of government services and programs*
 - webcasting (video and audio) of Council public meetings and enabling interactivity and future replay
 - providing remote support for callers to Council using videoconferencing that could be integrated into Council's call centre voice and software systems
 - conduct of web-based information sessions on various Council services in languages other than English and delivered by Council staff who speak these languages (rather than via remote dedicated translators)
 - delivery of video-conferencing capability to enable face-to-face meetings between staff in other Councils in the state and in other states to exploit best practice and discuss common issues
- b) *Achieving health outcomes*
 - remote consulting (and training) over the web for Maternal and Child Health (M&CH) advice to parents at home
 - stream targeted fitness programs for the disabled into their homes
- c) *Improving educational resources and training available to teachers and students*
 - provision of remote web-based support for library advice and services to schools (to support teachers) by qualified Council librarians particularly in light of the depopulation of librarians in schools over the past decade
- d) *The management of Australia's built and natural resources and environmental sustainability*
 - delivery of interactive sustainability education sessions for the home and for business
 - delivery of community education on the planning process – for residents who want to build new homes, add extensions to homes, understand their rights relative to new developments in their area, and for builders/developers to understand the correct process to follow to propose and implement a development
- e) *Impacting business efficiencies and revenues, particularly for small and medium business*
 - interactive web-based meetings between Council staff and vendors to discuss tender requirements and provide information about tenders
 - web-based sessions to support small business discussion groups
- f) *Facilitating community and social benefits*
 - webcasting (video and audio) community network meetings and enabling interactivity and future replay e.g. historical society meetings, Greek community presentations, monthly book club meetings, music groups sharing ideas on specific genres
 - information/network web-based night sessions for youth – e.g. coffee & chat nights to discuss issues
 - "Council TV" - development and marketing of a series of programs (one off and regular) on community based issues and information relevant to the municipality

Council looks forward to hearing the outcomes of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Peter Brown
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

25 / 02 / 2011