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Turnbull assures Coast on NBN

By ADAM LANGENBERG

THE North-West Coast will not be shortchanged by receiving fibre to the node broadband, according to Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Business centres in Devonport, Ulverstone and Burnie look set to receive a FTTN connection, while Launceston and Hobart will mostly receive fibre to the premises broadband.

Mr Turnbull would not comment on the specifics of the NBN rollout, but insisted businesses with FTTN broadband connections would not be shortchanged.

He would not commit to when Tasmania would be connected to the NBN, but said NBN Co was set to release its three-year plan early next year.

"Our expectation is every Australian will know what the next three years will hold," he said.

Mr Turnbull said FTTN connections would deliver very high speeds.

"We are already seeing it

delivering around 100 megabits per second down and around 40 per second up.

"The average from our trial on the central coast, [of New South Wales] and this is including residences around 500 metres from the pillar, was 91mbps down and 36 up, so we're talking about very good speeds.

"I have no doubt that once people get FTTN speeds they will be very happy."

Mr Turnbull said about 60 per cent of Tasmanian residences and businesses with a fixed line service would receive a FTTP connection.

"Tasmania's well advanced and has a higher percentage of FTTP connections than the rest of Australia," he said.

Mr Turnbull said a new reporting process used by NBN Co would help to eliminate long waiting times experienced by residences and businesses waiting to connect to the service.

"What Labor was doing . . . they would announce an FSAM [fibre servicing area module] as ready for service when it simply wasn't," he said.

"So then you get all this grief . . . where people would ring up and couldn't get a service.

"The company has made a policy that they won't declare a FSAM ready for service until around 90 per cent of the premises are actually serviceable, in that a lead is already ready or can be readily installed."