

Joint News Release



Senator Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications
And the Digital Economy

Jennie George MP
Federal Member for Throsby

Sharon Bird MP
Federal Member for Cunningham

Local MPs welcome fantastic local NBN news

Federal Illawarra MPs Jennie George and Sharon Bird welcomed today's announcement from the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy and NBN Co CEO Mike Quigley of the first five sites to receive high speed broadband on mainland Australia, as part of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

"I am thrilled that Minnamurra and Kiama Downs households and businesses will be the first sites in NSW to receive high-speed broadband on the mainland" Ms George said.

"NBN Co will use Minnamurra and Kiama Downs as the first live test of network's design and construction methods and this will provide crucial information to assist in the roll out of the NBN both elsewhere in our community and across the country" Ms George said.

Following the design phase, actual construction work on the test sites will be delivered in a staged roll out beginning in the second half of the year.

NBN Co will consult with the communities about its plans during the design phase. It is expected that these communities will then be able to receive high speed broadband services following the completion of construction early next year .

NBN Co will be using the first sites to test different construction techniques to suit different geographical regions across Australia. It follows comprehensive testing in its integration labs.

"Today's announcement is another important milestone not only for this historic project, but also as proof of our commitment made at the last election to deliver better broadband to residents of the Illawarra" Ms Bird said.

The NBN will drive major productivity and growth opportunities right across Australia and ensuring the roll out is successful is critical to getting this infrastructure delivered efficiently and successfully.

“I am proud to be part of the Rudd Government which has done more to improve broadband and telecommunications services in this country in two years, than the previous Government managed in almost twelve years.

“On their watch, Australia languished behind the rest of the world on broadband penetration, speeds and pricing – not to mention the deterioration of consumer service levels across the telecommunications sector” Ms Bird said.

For more information on the trial, including site maps, visit: www.nbnco.com.au or contact our offices on 4262 6122 or 4228 5899.

2 March 2010

Contact: Jennie George MP 4262 6122
 Sharon Bird MP 4228 5899