

## Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network – Broken Hill Site Visit

Broken Hill residents will be major beneficiaries from the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The NBN creates a platform which can be used to deliver economic benefits to rural and regional Australia through increased productivity, greater employment opportunities and better access to information and services. The NBN will mean people living away from major cities will have less need to travel to get specialist services, saving time and money.

The NBN will also allow Broken Hill residents to have reliable access to bandwidth that will enable them to keep in touch with friends and family through the use of videoconferencing and cloud computing to share photos and videos.

Indicative coverage maps published by NBN Co at [www.nbnco.com.au/our-network](http://www.nbnco.com.au/our-network) suggest that Broken Hill may be served by fibre to the premises technology capable of providing broadband speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second (please see [Attachment A](#)). Please note this coverage map is indicative only and subject to change.

Communities around Broken Hill outside the fibre footprint are likely to be serviced by satellite technologies providing peak speeds of at least 12 megabits per second on NBN Co's long term satellite solution and this will be finalised by NBN Co according to their roll out.

On 1 July 2011, NBN Co launched commercial services on the Interim Satellite Service (ISS), providing eligible rural and regional Australians with immediate access to enhanced broadband services. This new service is targeted at customers who do not have access to a metro-comparable broadband service.

The ISS offers users a 6 megabit per second download speed and 1 megabit per second upload speed, ahead of the introduction of a long term satellite solution in 2015.

NBN Co manages eligibility for the interim service through a set of business rules, ensuring that first priority is given to those who do not have alternate broadband access and they are either a residential customer, a small business or an Indigenous community organisation. Further information about eligibility is available at [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au) or by calling the NBN contact centre on **1800 881 816**.\*

As part of its long term satellite solution, NBN Co will deploy two Ka-band satellites to provide access to the NBN outside the fibre and wireless footprint. These satellites will provide better quality services than those currently available via existing satellites, and metro-comparable ADSL.

The next-generation satellite networks that are being delivered to those outside the fibre and wireless footprints are being engineered to specifically deliver high-speed broadband to regional and remote communities. It is expected these services will provide a service experience that is equivalent to, or better than, many people experience on ADSL today.

The long-term satellite upload speeds provide sufficient bandwidth to deliver standard definition video. It is expected that the satellite services will support video conferencing and some e-health services.

\* - Interim Satellite Service eligibility criteria are available at:

<http://www.nbnco.com.au/assets/documents/eligibility-criteria-interim-satellite-service.pdf>

NBN Co is moving as quickly as practical to roll out the network, including to Broken Hill. However, consistent with any major project of this size and complexity, it is necessary that the planning and design phases are undertaken to ensure that the rollout occurs as efficiently as possible.

On 23 June 2011 Telstra and NBN Co announced they had entered into Definitive Agreements providing for the reuse of suitable Telstra infrastructure and for Telstra to progressively structurally separate by decommissioning its copper network and broadband HFC network capability during the NBN rollout. The Definitive Agreements are legally binding but only come into force after a number of conditions precedent are met including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's acceptance of Telstra's Structural Separation Undertaking and shareholder approval. While some information on second release sites has been made available to NBN Co under an Interim Access Agreement, further information to complete planning for the rollout is dependent on the finalisation of the Definitive Agreements.

NBN Co will be considering proposals to extend FTTP coverage in some locations if external funding—such as from state or local governments—was provided to offset the incremental costs. NBN Co is trialling extensions of its fibre network to residents outside the fibre footprint in the stage two release sites in Tasmania.

Visit [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au) and [www.nbn.gov.au](http://www.nbn.gov.au) for further information on the implementation of the NBN.

# New South Wales

These maps provide an indicative representation of the fibre and wireless components of the National Broadband Network. The information in these maps is based on initial detailed modelling work done by NBN Co which may be subject to change following more detailed planning and design work. The fibre modelling is based on NBN Co's current optical fibre design rules rather than detailed premise location and density and may not result in contiguous coverage of all locations within the indicated fibre footprint. The wireless modelling does not take into account terrain modelling and clutter, and may not result in contiguous coverage of all locations within the indicated wireless footprint. These maps also assume that satellite services will be provided to remaining premises. The Transit links represent indicative connectivity. The physical path will vary depending on the geography and the presence of existing infrastructure

