What is the National Broadband Network?

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is designed to provide high-speed broadband access to 100 per cent of Australian premises. The NBN is a nation-building program with the potential to lift Australia’s productivity and will provide a broadband network to serve Australia for decades to come.

To reach everyone in our vast country, the NBN will be delivered via an optimal mix of fibre optic cabling, fixed wireless and satellite technologies.

What is NBN Co’s Co-Development Program?

Construction of the NBN involves infrastructure works in public streets, roads and highways. This work typically includes all activities required to install optical fibre cable and any related equipment to provide broadband connectivity to individual homes and businesses. This can involve the construction of new pits and conduits that are generally located under footpaths.

The Co-Development Program aims to minimise construction impacts on the community by identifying and leveraging any planned infrastructure projects.

For example, if a local government or property developer has plans to construct new infrastructure or the road authorities have planned road works, NBN Co could investigate the possibility of installing NBN Co equipment at the same time, where feasible. This may achieve shared efficiencies whilst minimising both the community impact and cost (please see diagram below).

Co-Development assessment process

Projects will be assessed against a set of criteria set by NBN Co to determine whether they align with NBN Co’s construction plans. Importantly the project must be in an area that is required for NBN Co’s national rollout.

Applicants are encouraged to register their interest early by submitting a completed co-development project form. NBN Co will then assess the proposed third party project before proceeding with discussions which may, in NBN Co’s sole discretion, lead to a co-development.

Co-Development application process:

1. Go to the NBN Co co-development website and complete a co-development project form.
2. NBN Co will contact the applicant to request any additional details that may be required for the fit-for-purpose assessment.
3. NBN Co will notify the applicant of the outcome of the assessment.
4. Upon agreement, NBN Co pit and pipe infrastructure will be installed to published guidelines. NBN Co pit and pipe installation guidelines can be found online at www.nbnco.com.au/codevelopment.
5. Pit and pipe infrastructure is transferred to NBN Co.

Typical Co-Development Construction process

For illustration purposes only
Who can be considered for the Co-Development Program?

Third parties who may be interested in the Co-Development Program include but are not limited to:

- State, territory, local and federal government infrastructure owners or operators (e.g. utilities such as electricity, gas, and water, road or rail authorities, major projects)
- Private infrastructure owners or operators (e.g. utilities such as electricity, gas and water, road or rail operators)
- Property developers

There is no limit to the type of third party that may be involved in the program provided that they meet NBN Co’s assessment criteria.

What types of projects may be appropriate for the Co-Development Program?

There are potentially a wide variety of projects that may be appropriate for the Co-Development Program including:

- Roadwork (new, upgrades or repairs)
- Works around rail corridors including new rail extensions
- Construction of major sites like schools, hospitals, government buildings, bridges, new housing estates, etc...
- Upgrade and relocation of existing electrical and communications assets into the road reserve areas which require trenching, boring, ploughing, excavation, aerial-to-underground
- New or upgrade of gas, water, sewer or stormwater assets
- Streetscape work or footpath widening

When is the best time to have discussions on potential co-development opportunities?

It is recommended to begin discussions around co-development early in the lifecycle of the project, preferably during the planning phase. An early discussion will help accommodate technical, commercial and scheduling considerations.

For more information:

Phone 1800 OUR NBN (1800 687 626)
Email codevelopment@nbnco.com.au
Watch our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/nbnco
Follow us at twitter.com/nbnco

What information does NBN Co require to assess a project for co-development?

NBN Co requires information on:

- **What** is the type and scope of the project
- **Where** is the project located
- **When** is the project occurring
- **Stage** of the current phase of the project i.e. planning, design, tender or construction

Interested applicants can either download a Co-Development checklist form from our website or request it by emailing codevelopment@nbnco.com.au.

What is the difference between NBN Co’s New Development and Co-Development Programs?

The Co-Development Program only relates to the early installation of conduits and pits in locations that support NBN Co’s rollout. Applications for fibre in a new estate are managed through NBN Co’s New Developments program.

In some circumstances, access roads to a new development may provide an opportunity for co-development and developers are encouraged to register their ‘access road infrastructure projects’ with the Co-Development Program.

How do I contact NBN Co for any additional information?

Queries can be submitted via email to codevelopment@nbnco.com.au