

**Broadbanding
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Media Release

Community consultation begins in Armidale

17 May, 2010

NBN Co Limited today announced community consultation for the National Broadband Network rollout will start in Armidale on Saturday 22 May with a community information session to be held at Armidale Town Hall.

Armidale is one of five first release sites on the Australian mainland, and one of only two locations in New South Wales to be selected to be the first to benefit from the rollout of the superfast national wholesale-only broadband network.

NBN Co Chief Executive Officer, Mike Quigley said that NBN Co was embarking on a program of community consultation in Armidale with construction due to begin locally in the second part of the year.

“Detailed design work has already begun in Armidale with extensive survey and site examination works being undertaken by network planners,” Mr Quigley said.

“Residents and businesses now have the opportunity to meet members of the NBN Co team and find out more about the rollout of optical fibre in Armidale with a community information session to be held on Saturday 22 May.

“This is the start of our consultation program which is about keeping the community informed and ensuring the residents and businesses in Armidale play a key role throughout the design and construction phase of the rollout and beyond.”

The National Broadband network aims to enable speeds of up to 100 Megabits per second to 90 per cent of Australian premises and up to 12 Megabits per second to the remaining 10 per cent. These speeds are of course dependent on factors such as the retail package you choose from your retail service provider and your chosen hardware and premises connection.

This unique nation-building project has the potential to lift Australia’s productive capacity and improve the way we connect with each other, from lifestyle and business to health and education.

NBN Co has already commenced consultation with Armidale Dumaresq Council to help inform the network design in Armidale and will continue to work cooperatively with the council to ensure the best possible outcome for the project and the community.

“We are committed to bringing the National Broadband Network to the families and businesses in Armidale in a way that minimises construction impacts and leaves a positive legacy in the community - this means having an open dialogue with the people of Armidale,” Mr Quigley said.

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“A dedicated community liaison staff has been appointed to provide a single point of contact for the community and they are already responding to enquiries through the community information line, NBN Co website and email.

“An invitation to the community information session and project information brochures have been sent to residents in the first release site in Armidale and we are advertising locally to encourage as many people to attend the sessions as possible.

“This is just the first step in what will be ongoing community consultation activities throughout the rollout in Armidale.”

Community Information session

- When: Saturday 22 May 9am-12pm
- Where: Armidale Town Hall, Rusden Street

There is no need to make an appointment, please feel free to drop in any time.

Further information, including site maps, is available at www.nbnco.com.au

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