

**Broadbanding
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Media Release

Community consultation begins in Townsville

20 May, 2010

NBN Co Limited today announced community consultation for the National Broadband Network rollout will start in Townsville on Saturday 29 May with a community information session to be held at Aitkenvale Library.

The areas of Aitkenvale and Mundingburra in Townsville have been chosen as one of five first release sites on the Australian mainland, and the only location in Queensland 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 Aitkenvale and Mundingburra with construction due to begin locally in the second part of the year.

“Detailed design work has already begun in Aitkenvale and Mundingburra 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 Aitkenvale and Mundingburra with a community information session to be held on Saturday 29 May.

“This is the start of our consultation program which is about keeping the community informed and ensuring the residents and businesses in Aitkenvale and Mundingburra 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 Townsville City Council to help inform the network design in Aitkenvale and Mundingburra 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 Aitkenvale and Mundingburra 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 Aitkenvale and Mundingburra,” 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 Aitkenvale and Mundingburra 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 Aitkenvale and Mundingburra.”

Community Information session

- When: Saturday 29 May 10am-1pm
- Where: Aitkenvale Library, 4 Petunia St, Aitkenvale

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

Community information line 1800 881 816

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