

**ACT**

Government

Economic Development

**BRIEF**

Ref: BM 12/454

**SUBJECT: Reply to correspondence from Dr Andrew Leigh re telecommunications in West Macgregor**

To: Minister for Economic Development

- Director-General, Economic Development Directorate
- Deputy Director-General, Economic Development Directorate

10/15/3/12

From: Executive Director, Business Development

Date: March 2012

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

COPY

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

Notice Paper of 10 April 2013

Question No. 98

**MR SMYTH:** To ask the Minister for Economic Development:

- (1) In relation to the National Broadband Network rollout in the ACT, can the Minister provide details on the (a) name of suburb, (b) level of work completed, (c) status of work, for example, on time or delayed, (d) anticipated delay and reason for delayed projects and (e) works where cables will have to be relayed, and extent of this work as a percentage of total project for identified suburb.

**MR BARR:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government has no direct role in the ACT NBN Rollout; however, it has established an engagement and dialogue process with NBN Co and its local contractor - Silcar - to facilitate communications with relevant ACT Government service agencies, and to support the community consultation process around the project. In relation to the specifics of this question, there is detailed information on the NBN Rollout in the ACT on NBN Co's website.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

  
Minister for Economic Development

Date: 9-5-2013

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION

Notice Paper of 10 April 2013

Question No. 104

**MR SMYTH:** To ask the Minister for Economic Development:


- (1) What was/is Business Development's role in supporting NBNC<sub>o</sub> in the rollout in the ACT.
- (2) How did it assist with logistics.
- (3) What advice did it give.
- (4) What engagements with local communities did it have.
- (5) When will the network be extended to other northern suburbs.
- (6) Which suburbs will this include.
- (7) Did the 2011-2012 annual report note that the National Broadband Network (NBN) will be extended to "nearly all of the remaining suburbs of Canberra within three years"; if so, which suburbs will not be getting NBN connectivity and why.

**MR BARR:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Business Development established an NBN Implementation Taskforce comprising relevant Directorates and functional areas within Government who could assist with rollout logistics. The Taskforce provides a single entry point to Government for NBNC<sub>o</sub> and its contractor Silcar.
- (2) The Taskforce has met with NBNC<sub>o</sub> representatives and its contractors a number of times and Directorates are assisting NBNC<sub>o</sub> and its rollout contractor Silcar on an issue by issue basis. The issues covered are diverse and include matters such as planning and access arrangements and community consultation.
- (3) See (2) above. Additionally, Business Development provides advice on relevant contacts within ACT Government Directorates and Community Councils who can assist in facilitating the rollout.
- (4) Business Development has worked closely with representatives of the Gungahlin Community Council.
- (5) Within the next two years.
- (6) All of the northern suburbs including Dickson, Watson, Hackett, Downer, Turner, Braddon, Lyneham, Campbell, Reid, Ainslie, O'Connor.

- (7) The three year rollout plan includes providing connections to 135,300 homes and businesses across all Canberra suburbs. There may be some homes and businesses in outlying parts of the ACT that will require wireless or satellite NBN connections.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

  
**Andrew Barr MHA**  
**Minister for Economic Development**

**Date: 29.4.2013**

# Broadband equipment rollout gets a step closer

By John Thistleton

About 8500 TransACT customers in Canberra will be issued with new equipment in coming months to prepare for the National Broadband Network, following the sale of its fibre-to-the-premises network.

Provider iiNet, which bought TransACT from the ACT government in 2011, has sold the FTTP network for \$9 million.

The switch is expected to take about nine months, once approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

TransACT chief executive Ivan Slavich said there would be minimal disruption to services, even though the fibre itself would not be changed.

He could not specify how long disruptions would be.

Homes connected to the FTTP network would swap their termination equipment with NBN termination devices to receive the NBN service through a wider choice of internet service providers.

The changeover would happen in separate residential estates in Gungahlin where the bulk of TransACT's original rollout took place. The network also covers an additional 4500 premises either planned or under construction.

"We will be in contact with our customers to work through this process. It will take around nine months or so from the contract's completion," Mr Slavich said.

Customers will use existing modems, but those taking the TransAct's television service will be offered a new one. "We sell Fetch TV services as part of the iiNet group, so we are

working on rolling out Fetch TV to these customers," he said. Once the changeover is completed customers will have a choice of either TransACT/iiNet's ISP or a wider range of other ISP services.

Customers on long-term contract will have to wait for them to expire.

"There's a whole heap of different contracts that we offer, obviously the one to provide the service, but there are customers that are in a 'bundled contract' between TransACT and ActewAGL bundling their energy and telco."

Mr Slavich would not say what the network was worth before iiNet bought TransACT and revalued its assets in 2011.

Gungahlin Community Council president Ewan Brown said previously some new areas of Gungahlin weren't going to be covered by the NBN because they were covered by TransACT services.

"Now it means every thing is thrown into the same melting pot and people will be able to connect via either the TransACT fibre or the NBN fibre."

Mr Brown said the NBN rollout was still slow, although he was encouraged to hear Ngunnawal would be ready from June 1.

"People aren't getting enough information where to locate the entry point to their home, what sort of extra equipment they need, whether they need a wireless router, how to cable up all their various devices."

"The terminology says fibre-to-the-home. But a lot of sub-contractors are saying 'we're only putting it on garages', even detached garages, which means the home owner has to find some way of getting the signals to all equipment in the house."

## Report suspicious use of chemicals, says Dreyfuss

Here's how to tell if your neighbour could be a terrorist bombmaker.

He has lots of pool chemicals but no pool, his place smells of chemicals or he has a bin full of empty chemical containers.

If you are a shopkeeper you might have your suspicions raised by someone seeking to buy a large quantity of particular chemicals with cash.

activity and reporting it to the National Security Hotline," he said. The new website [www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au) lists 98 chemicals of security concern, along with some tips on what could indicate suspicious conduct. Meanwhile, Mr Dreyfuss said Thursday's terrorist attack in London, in which a British soldier was beheaded, shows that violence influenced by twisted ideology can



an Passionfruit each when you buy 5





COPY

**Andrew Barr MLA**

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

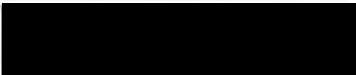
MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND EVENTS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

In West Macgregor there have been delays in the provision of basic communications infrastructure by NBN Co. I understand that these delays are being addressed and most residents in West Macgregor should shortly be able to gain access to high speed broad services through their retail service providers. You can observe the progress of the rollout on the NBN Co website at <http://www.nbnco.com.au/rollout/rollout>.

Thank you for drawing these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely

  
Andrew Barr MLA  
Minister for Economic Development

08 FEB 2013

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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CANBERRA


**ACT**

Government

Economic Development

# BRIEF

Ref: BM12/2331

**SUBJECT:** Gungahlin Library Tests the NBN

To: Minister for Economic Development

- Director-General, Economic Development Directorate 19/12/12
- Deputy Director-General, Economic Development Directorate

From: Ian Cox, Executive Director, Business Development

Date: 19 December 2012

## Critical Date and Reason

Media Event - Friday 21 December 2012

## Purpose

To provide briefing for the media event at the Gungahlin Library, cnr. Hibberson and Gozzard Streets, Gungahlin, ACT 2912, on 21 December 2012 at 11.30am

## Background

The Gungahlin Library has now been connected to the NBN and is now in the testing phase before the whole of the Gungahlin Town Centre goes live. NBNCo has been able to meet its pre-Christmas 2012 deadline for the finalisation of this connection.

A media event has been arranged to mark the occasion. You might wish to consider advising Mr Rattenbury, the Minister for Territories and Municipal Services, of the opportunity to participate in this announcement.

The media event will be the first of three proposed to publicise the NBN rollout in Gungahlin. NBN Co is planning a second event for late January-early February 2013 as Harrison comes online. This will be followed by the official opening of the ACT Digital Hub and Digital Enterprise programs in March 2013, timing dependent on the availability of the Prime Minister and/or the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

## Issues

Some nuancing of messaging will be important to manage community expectations about the current extent of the rollout in Gungahlin and the timing of the opening of the ACT Digital Hub, which will not be ready until early 2013.

**Media**

We envisage interest from Canberra media, including Canberra Times and the ABC. A draft media release is attached. Private bloggers on the Gungahlin NBN rollout are active on Twitter and Whirlpool, a popular Australian IT forum.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That you note the information contained in this brief.

Name: Ian Cox

*Andrew Barr MLA ....., / /*

**NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

Action Officer: Zena Armstrong x71887

Dispatched  
10/10/12

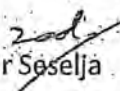


**ACT**  
Government  
Economic Development

COPY

000040

Mr Zed Seselja MLA  
Leader of the Opposition  
Member for Molonglo  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

  
Dear Mr Seselja


I refer to your letter of 10 September 2012 to the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development Mr Simon Corbell MLA, regarding internet connections in the inner north. I am responding as the ACT Government is currently under caretaker arrangements in the lead up to the ACT election on 20 October 2012.


TransACT, which was acquired by iiNet in November 2011, is a privately owned company and, as such, I am unable to comment on its technology infrastructure planning. Your constituent may wish to contact TransACT directly to discuss internet service plans in their area.

There are also a number of competing internet service providers and a range of technology options available which may suit your constituent's needs. A list of those that provide services by type to the inner north of Canberra is available at the broadband choice website at <http://bc.whirlpool.net.au/>.

The NBN Co is rolling out the National Broadband Network to the ACT within three years. I understand that NBN Co will commence work in the inner north within twelve months.

Yours sincerely

  
David Dawes  
Director-General

  
9 October 2012

Andrew Leigh  
Federal Member for Fraser  
What are you after today?

FIND

You are here: Home >  **Blogging**

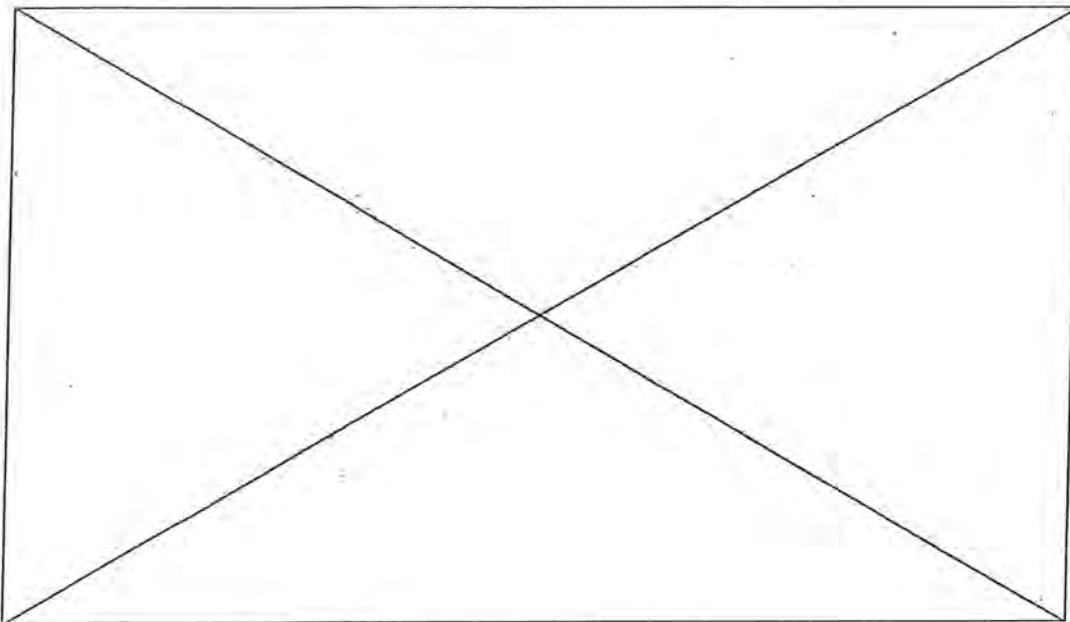
## Laying NBN cables in Gungahlin

4 October 2012, 8:18 pm

Like 0 Tweet 3

0

I was delighted today to join Senator Kate Lundy at the laying of a distribution fibre cable in Palmerston — bringing the National Broadband Network to the heart of Gungahlin.



Our joint media release is below.

### JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator Kate Lundy**  
**Senator for the ACT**

**Andrew Leigh MP**  
**Federal Member for Fraser**

**4 October 2012**

### **NBN rollout picks up speed in Gungahlin**

Senator for the ACT Kate Lundy and Member for Fraser Andrew Leigh MP today welcomed construction activity connecting Gungahlin residents to the National Broadband Network (NBN).

Construction crew will rollout the first NBN fibre optic cable today to link homes and business in Gungahlin to the NBN.

Senator Lundy said the NBN will deliver fast, affordable, and reliable broadband to over 15 000 Canberra homes and businesses, including 2 700 in Gungahlin.

"The roll out of fibre in Gungahlin means homes and businesses are one step closer to connecting to the NBN and accessing services and other benefits," Senator Lundy said.

"The NBN will not only provide a massive boost to internet speeds, it will provide a huge boost to our local community."

Senator Lundy said with the fibre hauling commencing today, NBN Co forecast that construction activity should be complete in the central business district of Gungahlin as well as nearby suburbs by the end of the year allowing homes and businesses to connect shortly afterwards.

The Gillard Government has provided over \$1 million to Gungahlin Library through the ACT Government to ensure local individuals and businesses can access training opportunities and connect with local services using the NBN in publicly available facilities.

"I'm particularly excited about the opportunities the NBN opens up in education," said Dr Leigh.

"With super fast broadband, students will be able to video link with schools overseas and share classroom experiences to learn other languages in real time. Guest lecturers can present to a university class through a feed from another country and take questions from students. Rather than today's slightly grainy and patchy quality of services such as Skype, the NBN will mean the quality is similar to watching a DVD.

"There are also enormous economic benefits in increased productivity. Businesses will be able to upload and download enormous files quickly. It means the person running the small production company can email a draft version of an ad, rather than posting a DVD or waiting until a meeting to screen it.

"I call on the Liberals to abandon their tin-can-and-string policy, and support Canberrans getting super-fast broadband."

BRIEF

CHIEF MINISTER  
DEPARTMENT

PLS. NOTE  
CM'S COMMENT

Date 12 November 2010 Ref: G733/10  
 To Chief Minister  
     • Chief Executive  
     • ~~Deputy Chief Executive~~  
 From Ian Cox, General Manager, Business and Industry Development  
 Subject Implementation of the National Broadband Network (NBN) - Gungahlin

**Critical date and reason**

NA

**Purpose**

To provide an update on the implementation of the National Broadband Network in Gungahlin.

**Background**

On 8 July 2010, NBN Co announced that Gungahlin would be one of the 19 locations for the next stage of the National Broadband Network rollout. The initial footprint of 3000 premises in Gungahlin is expected to be announced in November and the initial rollout is expected to take place April – July 2011.

An across agency taskforce has been established to assist with the smooth implementation of the NBN in Gungahlin. The first meeting of the taskforce will be convened when the initial footprint for Gungahlin is announced.

The taskforce will initially focus on ensuring that the practical implementation issues are managed appropriately and then move on to identify opportunities for improved community, business and government service delivery. The membership of the taskforce will transition over time as the role of the taskforce moves from initial implementation to delivery of services.

The terms of reference and membership of the NBN Implementation Taskforce is at **Attachment A**.

**Issues**

Gungahlin is one of the pilot sites for the full implementation of the National Broadband Network. From a strategic business perspective the rollout is expected to deliver a high take-up rate for broadband services.

Our intelligence suggests that the first implementation site of 3000 premises in Gungahlin will be in close proximity to the town centre. It is expected that the rollout will progressively extend to all of Gungahlin.

The NBN taskforce is well positioned to assist with a smooth rollout and resolve issues that may arise with the Gungahlin build of the network. Consideration of issues relating to planning, community concerns and impacts on residents is taking place across government. The range of matters identified includes:

- a possible combination of new and existing premises in the Gungahlin rollout that will require ongoing guidance to NBN Co in relation to the relevant approvals/exemptions requirements;
- further consultations will need to take place with residents and is planned by NBN Co;
- NBN Co has already met with officials and is aware of government requirements in relation to traffic management, urban infrastructure works requirements, planning approvals and protection of survey infrastructure to ensure that approvals are in place to allow construction to proceed; and
- NBN Co has consulted with Treasury on the application of the Utilities Network Facilities Tax (UNFT). The latest position advised by NBN Co is that it intends to pre-register as a Network Utility Owner for the purposes of the UNFT. Further discussions will take place between NBN Co and the Commissioner for ACT Revenue to establish an approved methodology for estimating the length of that Network Infrastructure as it is acquired or built.

More detailed work will be undertaken when NBN Co announce the site of the first implementation.

In addition, to the practical issues from the physical rollout of the infrastructure, other matters that may impact on the implementation of the National Broadband Network relate to both the business relationships that NBN is negotiating with other telecommunications carriers and the legislative and regulatory framework that is being developed to support the new telecommunications environment.

On the business relationships NBN Co has entered into a Financial Heads of Agreement with Telstra. It is worth an expected value of \$9 billion and provides for:

- the reuse of suitable Telstra infrastructure, including pits, ducts and backhaul fibre, by NBN Co as it starts to rollout its new network to avoid unnecessary infrastructure duplication; and
- the progressive migration of customers from Telstra's copper and pay-TV cable networks to the new wholesale-only fibre network to be built and operated by NBN Co.

Locally, negotiations are ongoing with Transact to provide similar outcomes to the ones negotiated with Telstra. As well, NBN will need to establish business relationships with retailers to supply services to Gungahlin customers.

Breakdowns in the business relationships needed to deliver retail services to customers and the pricing of services could result in negative publicity.

Aspects of the legislative and regulatory framework for the full implementation of NBN that are still in progress relate to the provision of fibre and other infrastructure to support the implementation of the fibre network in greenfields developments and the full transition of the Government's telecommunications safety net to the Government's USO Co, which will commence operations in July 2012. The responsibilities of USO Co will include:

- ensuring all Australians have reasonable access to a standard telephone service;
- ensuring that payphones are reasonably accessible to all Australians;
- emergency call handling and the National Relay Service;
- the migration of voice-only customers to a fibre-based service as Telstra's copper exchanges are decommissioned; and
- developing technological solutions for continuity of public interest services such as public alarm systems and traffic lights.

The complexities of ensuring the telecommunications safety net is effective will be a challenge as the telecommunications environment is moving rapidly to a new model of delivery.

The frameworks to ensure that greenfields developments are positioned to allow connection to the NBN are still being developed. It is still not clear what approach will be taken by the Commonwealth Government. However, it is likely that once the approach is confirmed state and territory governments will need to review their planning legislation to determine if legislation is required.

### **Consultation**

Treasury, ACT Planning and Land Authority, Land Development Agency, Territory and Municipal Services.

### **Financial**

There will be revenue to the ACT Government from the application of the Utilities Network Facilities Tax to the fibre network.

A Budget bid for \$100,000 has been submitted to assist businesses in Gungahlin to more fully exploit the opportunities of an NBN connection. It is proposed that these businesses be offered business consultancy advice to assist them to review and/or implement web-enabled business systems that will support their growth. This pilot and demonstration initiative would be used to promote the business opportunities of increased broadband access. The initiative would be delivered through a qualified consultant engaged for twelve months to deliver 20 business consultancies to eligible businesses.

### **Media**

The NBN is a high profile activity. The rollout of the network may provide some opportunities for media announcements. If public expectations about the initial rollout and time frames for future rollouts or costs of services are different to public perceptions it may result in negative media coverage.

**Recommendation**

That you note the information contained in this brief.

NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Ian Cox

Contact Officer: Lynne Thomson  
Phone: 62071887

Jon Stanhope MLA ..... / /  
AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

18/11

I have some concern that  
- the popular perception is  
- that the whole of Gungahlin  
will be served up front.  
Is there a communication  
strategy re the 3000 units

- Sarah Burns -

H

Penelope

- Communication

strategy is being  
rolled out by NBN.

- Electric Car Taxi Brief -

**Attachment A****NBN Implementation Taskforce****Terms of Reference**

The role of the NBN Implementation Taskforce will be to:

- ensure that all parties involved in the implementation of NBN in Canberra are provided with relevant information;
- work with NBN Co to assist with the initial implementation of the NBN in Gungahlin; and
- identify opportunities for improved community, business and government service delivery to the Canberra community.

**Membership**

Members of the NBN Implementation Taskforce are:

Gabriel Joseph – TAMS  
(Asset Acceptance, detailed design, shared trenches)

John Taylor – TAMS  
(Temporary Traffic Management Plans, restoration of trenches and government assets)

Bob Taylor – ACT Land and Planning Authority  
(Deed Management for new estates)

Gavin Evans – ACT Planning and Land Authority  
(Surveying and Spatial Data)

Karen Wilden – ACT Planning and Land Authority  
(Impact, Code and Estate Assessment)

Tom Gordon – Land Development Agency  
(Gungahlin new estates)

Ian Cox – Chief Minister's Department

Lynne Thomson – Chief Minister's Department

Ross James – Chief Minister's Department

CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT  
Chief Executive



Ref: (Ministerial Number, TRIM number and/or CMD file number – text is 10pt font and right-aligned)

Dr Peggy Brown  
Chief Executive  
ACT Health

Ms Megan Smithies  
Chief Executive  
Department of Treasury

Dr Jim Watterston  
Chief Executive  
Department of Education & Training

Mr Gary Byles  
Chief Executive  
Department of Territory & Municipal  
Services

Mr Martin Hehir  
Chief Executive  
Department of Disability, Housing &  
Community Services

Mr Neil Savery  
Chief Planning Executive  
ACT Planning & Land Authority

Ms Kathy Leigh  
Chief Executive  
Department of Justice & Community Safety

Mr David Dawes  
Chief Executive  
Dept of Land & Property Services

Mr Adrian Maron  
Chief Executive  
Canberra Institute of Technology

Mr David Papps  
Chief Executive  
Department of Environment, Climate  
Change, Energy & Water

|| Copy: Harriet Elvin, Tu Pham, Maxine Cooper ?

Dear Colleagues

**NBN Implementation Taskforce – Gungahlin Rollout**

On July 8 2010, NBN Co announced that Gungahlin would be one of the 19 locations for the next stage of the National Broadband Network rollout. The initial footprint for Gungahlin is expected to be announced in November.

A taskforce has been established to assist with the smooth implementation of the NBN in Gungahlin. The first meeting of the taskforce will be convened when the initial footprint for Gungahlin is announced.

Initially the taskforce will focus on ensuring that the practical implementation issues are managed appropriately and then identify opportunities for improved community, business and government service delivery. The membership of the taskforce will transition over time as the role of the taskforce moves from initial implementation to delivery of services.

Please find attached the terms of reference and membership of the NBN Implementation Taskforce.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cappie-Wood  
Chief Executive

November 2010

## **NBN Implementation Taskforce**

### **Terms of Reference**

The role of the NBN Implementation Taskforce will be to:

- ensure that all parties involved in the implementation of NBN in Canberra are provided with relevant information;
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- identify opportunities for improved community, business and government service delivery to the Canberra community.

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Gavin Evans – ACT Planning and Land Authority  
(Surveying and Spatial Data)

Karen Wilden – ACT Planning and Land Authority  
(Impact, Code and Estate Assessment)

Lynne Thomson – Chief Minister's Department

Ross James – Chief Minister's Department

**Caveat Brief**

To Chief Minister  
From Ian Cox, General Manager, Business and Industry Development  
Subject Update on the progress of the National Broadband Network

*Cleared by General Manager  
Copy: Chief Executive CMD*

- NBN Co is developing a media strategy for the announcement of the rollout in Gungahlin and for the Canberra community more generally. NBN Co has also had discussions with the executive of the Gungahlin Community Council and an update on the rollout is expected to be included in the next edition of Gungahlin community newsletter.

Ian Cox  
1 March 2011



## **Katy Gallagher MLA**

**CHIEF MINISTER**

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### Chief Minister's Media Speaking Notes

**Event: Gungahlin Switch on Event**

**Day and Date: Friday 1 February 2013**

#### **Key messages:**

- I welcome today's switching on by Prime Minister Julia Gillard of the ACT's first public connection to the National Broadband Network (NBN) at the Gungahlin Town Centre.
- Switching on the NBN will launch the operations of the ACT Digital Hub at the Gungahlin Library and the ACT Digital Enterprise Centre, both joint initiatives of the ACT Government and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE).
- The Digital Hub is a place where all members of the ACT community can visit free of charge, to learn about the NBN and to find reliable and up-to-date advice on how to get connected.
- The library will also initially host the Digital Enterprise program. To be delivered by the Canberra Business Council, this program will provide training and workshops about high speed broadband systems and applications that can be used in the home and by businesses.
- Switching on the NBN is a major step forward as Canberra celebrates its centenary moving into the digital age. Under current plans the whole of Canberra will be connected to the NBN by 2015.
- I expect that Gungahlin residents will enthusiastically embrace the NBN and I encourage them to visit both the Digital Hub and the Digital Enterprise Centre at the Gungahlin Library.

**Katy Gallagher MLA**

CHIEF MINISTER

## Chief Minister's Speech Coversheet

**Event:** Gungahlin NBN Switch on and Launch of Digital Hub and Digital Enterprise Programs

**Day and Date:** Friday 1 February 2013

**Speech length:** 1018 words 6.3 Minutes

**Key messages:**

1. Welcome the work of DBCDE and NBN Co in ensuring that the NBN rollout is on track in the ACT and for their support of the Digital Hub and Digital Enterprise programs.
2. The NBN will be rolled out across most of the ACT and Queanbeyan by 2015, providing the ACT with the opportunity to brand itself as a digital city.
3. The ACT has a significant first mover opportunity to harness the benefits of superfast broadband and Wi-F to drive economic growth, create jobs and improve the quality of life across the Territory, and to integrate other parts of the Capital Region more fully in our economy.
4. Superfast broadband, integrated with strategically implemented WiFi facilities, could be a game changer for the ACT and the region, providing us with an unprecedented opportunity for economic diversification and growth.
5. The ACT Government is taking a whole-of-government approach and developing a digital strategy for the ACT.

END

**FULL SPEECH OVER PAGE**



**Katy Gallagher MLA**  
**CHIEF MINISTER**

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Speech

*Acknowledgements*

- Prime Minister Julia Gillard
- Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy
- Minister Kate Lundy
- Minister Shane Rattenbury
- Dr Andrew Leigh
- Senator Humphries

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

It's my great pleasure to attend this event, which marks the ACT's entry into an exciting new digital future.

This NBN connection links Gungahlin to what will become a world leading national communications network that will boost Australia's economic growth and productivity for many years to come.

The NBN will be rolled out across most of the ACT and Queanbeyan by 2015, providing the ACT with the opportunity to brand itself as Australia's first digital city.

Superfast broadband, integrated with strategically implemented Wi-Fi facilities, will be a game changer for the ACT and the region, providing us with an unprecedented opportunity for economic diversification.

The ACT has a significant first mover opportunity to harness the benefits of superfast broadband and Wi-Fi to drive economic growth, create jobs and improve the quality of life across the Territory, and to integrate other parts of the Capital Region more fully into our economy.

Effective participation in the digital economy will deliver many benefits for ACT families, businesses and communities, for example: providing new business and job opportunities; offering new opportunities for teleworking and working from home; and providing more competitive retail and end user services.

Smart use of broadband-enabled technologies will also help us as a government to develop solutions that deliver more personalised government services, anywhere, anytime and on any device, and improve ACT residents' access to more efficient health, education and community services.

The NBN offers exciting potential for business innovation – providing unrivalled opportunities to expand into new markets, at home and overseas; to engage more closely to better understand the needs of customers and to improve productivity through more cost-effective operations.

Digital breaks down geographic boundaries and increases creative interaction and professional collaboration across borders, creating new opportunities for those ACT businesses positioned to take advantage of them.

NBN-enabled technologies offer many opportunities for the ACT to establish itself as a regional centre of excellence for digitally-enabled services (for example, in the provision of health diagnostics) business and innovation.

NBN-enabled technologies will also allow the ACT to continue to develop the capacity and the expertise to deliver a broad range of high end professional services into the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

The ACT Government is taking a whole-of-government approach to the development of a digital strategy for the ACT.

I will shortly issue a Digital Canberra Strategy discussion paper that sets out a vision for the ACT to be recognised as a digital region that embeds and utilises digital technology to improve the quality of life for all residents, provides jobs and new opportunities, especially for our young people, and generates better environmental outcomes across the Territory.

I hope that ACT residents will join in the conversation about how the ACT can position itself to take full advantage of superfast broadband provided by the NBN.

Key principles to position the ACT at the forefront of the digital economy through the effective utilisation and innovation of digital technologies are likely to include:

- Digital inclusion to ensure that all citizens have the skills and access to engage online;

- Internet connectivity: anywhere, anytime and on any device;
- Government engagement with the community through the use of digital technologies to engage with residents on policy and service delivery design and implementation;
- Open Government in line with our commitment to timely release government data sets, to encourage development of innovative approaches and applications for service delivery;
- An innovation culture that supports technology and digital industries in Canberra allowing them to grow and prosper through a period of rapid technological change.

I welcome the opening of the ACT Digital Hub provided through Libraries ACT and the launch of the Digital Enterprise Program which will be managed by the Canberra Business Council.

These are joint initiatives of the ACT Government and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE).

The Digital Hub is a place the community can visit free of charge, to learn about the NBN and to find reliable and up-to-date advice on how to get connected.

The programs delivered at the ACT Digital Hub and by the Digital Enterprise program will provide information about systems and applications enabled by the NBN that can be used in the home and by businesses.

Many of the drivers to turn the ACT into a leading digital economy are already in place.

There is already a growing digital industry ecosystem, from start-ups and SMEs to multinationals. Many of these companies already have significant international reputation in the delivery of innovative digital solutions.

Canberra is a leading knowledge hub - home to the ANU, internationally recognised as the country's top research university, and the University of Canberra, which is quickly building expertise in digital innovation through its Inspire Centre, the e-Health Living Laboratory and other initiatives.

High quality public and private institutions add to the critical mass of knowledge and foster a culture of excellence, including the CSIRO, National ICT Australia (NICTA), the National Library and the National Gallery of Australia.

The most recent publicly available ABS figures (15 December 2011) show that the ACT continues to have the highest proportion of broadband access with 83 per cent of ACT households connected.

I anticipate that the residents of Gungahlin will enthusiastically take up the superfast broadband services offered by the NBN.

This is an exciting time for the ACT. The NBN and emerging digital technologies, including mobile, will enable government, business and the community to connect in new ways, many of which we cannot predict at this time. But we need to be ready.

I thank the ACT Government's Economic Development Directorate, DBCDE and NBN Co for their work in ensuring that the NBN rollout remains on track in the ACT and look forward to further announcements as other suburbs come on line.

ENDS

In a response to a Question on Notice lodged in August from ACT Senator Gary Humphries, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Conroy said that a number of factors had contributed to delays in Gungahlin, including the additional nine months it took to finalise the Definitive Agreements between Telstra and NBN Co, along with initial challenges in the company's **planning systems integration**. However, Senator Conroy said that NBN Co was aiming to get areas of Gungahlin connected by the end of the year. To achieve this, NBN Co reprioritised construction plans to connect central Gungahlin (9CRC-03) and parts of Palmerston (9CRC-04) first. This resulted in moving dates out for other fibre serving area modules in the area.

Cheers

Z

---

**From:** Darren Rudd [<mailto:DarrenRudd@nbnco.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 December 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** Armstrong, Zena  
**Cc:** McAlister, Kate; James, Ross (EDD)  
**Subject:** RE: Gungahlin Library ready PCD Dec and hopefully RSP's in place Dec - we now need a connection

Hi Zena.

Here are my responses in red below:

---

**From:** Armstrong, Zena [<mailto:Zena.Armstrong@act.gov.au>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Darren Rudd  
**Cc:** McAlister, Kate; James, Ross (EDD)  
**Subject:** RE: Gungahlin Library ready PCD Dec and hopefully RSP's in place Dec - we now need a connection

Darren

Thanks.

I want to make sure that Barr has the most up-to-date information at hand in the brief so he can answer media questions sensibly. He will be advised to defer to NBNCo on the more technical aspects but he needs to be able to answer the obvious questions. The information I am using comes from Senator Conroy's September response to Gary Humphries Question on Notice in August.

I have scoured the NBNCo website and DBCDE's website for more up-to-date information but the info isn't coming readily to hand.

The sorts of questions he may be asked are:

- **Why have there been so many delays in the Gungahlin rollout?**
  - Conroy's answer refers to "the additional nine months it took to finalise the Definitive Agreements between Telstra and NBN Co, along with initial challenges in the company's planning systems integration". He also says said that NBN Co was aiming to get areas of Gungahlin connected by the end of the year. "To achieve this, NBN Co reprioritised construction plans to connect central Gungahlin (9CRC-03) and parts of Palmerston (9CRC-04) first. This resulted in moving dates out for other fibre serving area modules in the area."

Other than the 9 months we put things on hold to secure the Telstra deal, we then had to mobilise crews and then wait while the infrastructure requiring upgrading was undertaken by Telstra to the network we have leased from them. In the case of Gungahlin 01 and 02, there are approximately 3 times more (on average) pits that need to be replaced as they are not the correct size. To minimise the delays, we in parallel commenced work on FSAM03 and 06 which from a construction perspective are completed and undergoing activation and testing before deeming them Ready For Service (RFS) at which time the public can place an order with a RSP to get a service.

- *Does the reference to planning systems integration relate to the issue with the Telstra infrastructure – ie. having to replace more pits that initially anticipated?*

Do you have more context here? This could be referring to the pre-planning or desktop processes rather than the implication of the remediation scope

- **When will the rest of the suburb of Gungahlin be switched on? I will advise that this should occur early in 2013 and advise him to refer any further queries to NBNCo reps.**

I will know by tomorrow, but people can refer to our Ready For Service spreadsheet on our website ([www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au)). The message should be "the first sites RFS early next year with a large number going live in the middle of the year." Currently, this site is showing:

Crace01      Ngunnawal, Amaroo - May 2013  
 Crace02      Ngunnawal - May 2013  
 Crace03      Gungahlin - January 2013 but here we should say "Early next year" as it may slip to Feb  
 Crace04      Palmerston - May 2013  
 Crace05      Harrison, Mitchell, Watson, Franklin - May 2013  
 Crace06      Harrison - 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013 - here we should say "Early next year"

- **How many ACT homes are now connected to the NBN?**
  - Conroy said "As of 17 September 2012, there were 99 active services in ACT greenfields sites, covering Macgregor and Watson. As of 17 September 2012, there were 14 active Interim Satellite Services in the ACT."
  - *Does "active services" refer to homes which are not only connected but have taken up the service? Latest stats for Gungahlin?*

There are no active services (connection plus activation on the NBN network via a RSP or more) in Gungahlin- the Digital Hub will be the first. Most customers will be able to place orders with their RSP early next year if they are in FSAM03

- **How did the NBN perform in this test? Were the speeds what you expected?**
  - You will need to be on hand to advise the Minister about the results of the test. Any information you might have about NBN speeds nationally would be very helpful to include in the brief. I will be there
- **How many homes Australia-wide are now connected? Followed closely by a question about the rate of national uptake.**

- o Whilst I would advise the Minister to flick this one straight to NBNCo it would be helpful to include some recent stats on this in his background, if you have them.

It varies by region but we are expecting Gungahlin to be one of the fastest take up rates

I would expect that you (NBNCo) might get a few questions about RSPs eg:

- **How many RSPs are now NBN ready – will all be offering services in Canberra? How many are accepting pre-orders?**

While we are exploring the idea of pre-orders this is not in place as yet. Residents will be told when they can place orders with RSP's by NBNCo writing to them. Residents can go to the website <http://www.nbnco.com.au/getting-connected/certified-service-providers.html> and put in their address to see which RSP's will service them

I don't need detail as its a matter for the two companies but would welcome confirmation as to whether or not discussions are continuing.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers

Zena

Zena Armstrong | Special Advisor

T: +61 2 6207 1887 | Email: [zena.armstrong@act.gov.au](mailto:zena.armstrong@act.gov.au)

Business Development | Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 2 Telstra Building 490 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box

158 Canberra ACT 2601

[www.business.act.gov.au](http://www.business.act.gov.au)

Hi Hamish

We have been asked to prepare a QTB on the NBN asbestos issue as it relates to the ACT but perhaps you are doing that now? In any case we would value being briefed on the issue. Business Development in EDD is the main point of contact on NBN issues.

Andrew McCredie  
Manager, Business Development and Engagement  
Business Development | Economic Development Directorate | ACT  
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[andrew.mccredie@act.gov.au](mailto:andrew.mccredie@act.gov.au)

[www.business.act.gov.au](http://www.business.act.gov.au)

---

**From:** Joyce, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 3:27 PM  
**To:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Asbestos in ACT telecommunications ducts

Andrew

The Asbestos Regulators Forum is meeting on this issue tomorrow morning at 10am. The ARF will formulate a response on behalf of government. Hamish McNulty is the EDD representative on the forum and Hamish will be able to provide a relevant background briefing at around 11am.

Cheers  
David

---

**From:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 2:11 PM  
**To:** Joyce, David  
**Cc:** James, Ross (EDD)  
**Subject:** Asbestos in ACT telecommunications ducts

Hi David

We are preparing a QTB for Minister Barr on asbestos issues associated with the NBN rollout in Canberra and are in communication with Telstra, NBN Co and Transact on this issue. Any information you may have relevant to this issue would be most helpful.

Andrew McCredie  
Manager, Business Development and Engagement  
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[www.business.act.gov.au](http://www.business.act.gov.au)

---

**From:** James, Ross (EDD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 1:43 PM  
**To:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Subject:** Fwd: Asbestos in ACT

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Bruem, Rod" <[Rod.Bruem@team.telstra.com](mailto:Rod.Bruem@team.telstra.com)>  
**Date:** 4 June 2013 12:18:37 PM AEST  
**To:** "[ross.james@act.gov.au](mailto:ross.james@act.gov.au)" <[ross.james@act.gov.au](mailto:ross.james@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Asbestos in ACT

Ross, as discussed, Comcare has issued Telstra with two prohibition notices last week in the ACT. It was not for NBN related work but a couple of broken pits that maintenance work was being carried out. There were no workers present when the notices were given. We don't believe the pits contain asbestos, but based on their age, further checks are being undertaken. At this stage I have not been able to obtain details on their locations, but will update you when I can.

Look forward to meeting you next Wednesday afternoon if you have some time form a coffee?



**Rod Bruem** | Corporate Affairs Manager NSW/ACT  
Government Relations | Telstra Corporation Ltd | 400 George St  
Sydney

P 02 8576 2705 | M   
[Rod.Bruem@team.telstra.com](mailto:Rod.Bruem@team.telstra.com) | W [www.telstra.com](http://www.telstra.com)

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**James, Ross (EDD)**

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**From:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 June 2013 11:12 AM  
**To:** McNulty, Hamish  
**Cc:** James, Ross (EDD)  
**Subject:** FW: Asbestos in ACT telecommunications ducts

Hi Hamish

We have been asked to prepare a QTB on the NBN asbestos issue as it relates to the ACT but perhaps you are doing that now? In any case we would value being briefed on the issue. Business Development in EDD is the main point of contact on NBN issues.

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---

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 3:27 PM  
**To:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Asbestos in ACT telecommunications ducts

Andrew

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Cheers

David

---

**From:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 2:11 PM  
**To:** Joyce, David  
**Cc:** James, Ross (EDD)  
**Subject:** Asbestos in ACT telecommunications ducts

Hi David

We are preparing a QTB for Minister Barr on asbestos issues associated with the NBN rollout in Canberra and are in communication with Telstra, NBN Co and Transact on this issue. Any information you may have relevant to this issue would be most helpful.

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[www.business.act.gov.au](http://www.business.act.gov.au)

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**From:** James, Ross (EDD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 1:43 PM  
**To:** McCredie, Andrew  
**Subject:** Fwd: Asbestos in ACT

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Bruem, Rod" <[Rod.Bruem@team.telstra.com](mailto:Rod.Bruem@team.telstra.com)>  
**Date:** 4 June 2013 12:18:37 PM AEST  
**To:** "[ross.james@act.gov.au](mailto:ross.james@act.gov.au)" <[ross.james@act.gov.au](mailto:ross.james@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Asbestos in ACT

Ross, as discussed, Comcare has issued Telstra with two prohibition notices last week in the ACT. It was not for NBN related work but a couple of broken pits that maintenance work was being carried out. There were no workers present when the notices were given. We don't believe the pits contain asbestos, but based on their age, further checks are being undertaken. At this stage I have not been able to obtain details on their locations, but will update you when I can.

Look forward to meeting you next Wednesday afternoon if you have some time for a coffee?



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**James, Ross (EDD)**

---

**From:** Tina Liptai [tina.liptai@staff.iinet.net.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 11:25 AM  
**To:** McCredie, Andrew; Media  
**Cc:** James, Ross (EDD); Cox, Ian  
**Subject:** RE: Asbestos in Canberra Telecom Ducts

Hi Andrew,

Thanks for your email.

I have passed it on and will get back to you as soon as I have some answers for you.

Kind regards  
Tina

**Tina Liptai**  
Communications Officer  
iiNet Group  
Level 4, 233 Castlereagh Street, Sydney 2000  
ph: 02 8456 1739  
email: [tina.liptai@staff.iinet.net.au](mailto:tina.liptai@staff.iinet.net.au)

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**From:** McCredie, Andrew [mailto:Andrew.McCredie@act.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 10:35 AM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** James, Ross (EDD); Cox, Ian  
**Subject:** Asbestos in Canberra Telecom Ducts

Hi Tina

As discussed I am preparing a QTB for my Minister Andrew Barr.

Some Qs:

- To Transact's knowledge is there any asbestos in Canberra's telecommunication ducts, including in Civic where the NBN rollout is just starting?
- Has this been an issue for the Gunghalin rollout of the NBN and potentially other new developments where Transact has been/will be involved?
- Is Transact considering preparing a statement setting out action the company will take to ensure Canberra residents are not exposed to asbestos along the lines of Telstra's <http://telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media-centre/announcements/telstra-welcomes-federal-government-initiatives-on-asbestos.xml> ?

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ing division during question time on Wednesday. Photo: ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN

# st Asbestos rumours dismissed

By Ross Peake

Telstra is dismissing rumours asbestos has been found in telephone pits in Gungahlin as the national broadband network rolls out.

The news was welcomed on Wednesday by Gungahlin Community Council president Ewan Brown who has been frustrated by months of "buck passing" as he tried to find out if rumours were true.

Asbestos contamination has been found in a Telstra pit at Penrith, with further discoveries at telecommunications works in Ballarat, Perth, Adelaide and Tasmania.

However, a Telstra spokesman said Gungahlin was a relatively new suburb and it was therefore unlikely a pit in the area would contain asbestos. "Telstra stopped using concrete asbestos

in the mid-1980s," he said.

In Canberra the NBN rollout is beginning at Gungahlin before spreading to other suburbs and Queanbeyan.

Recently NBN Co accelerated plans for Civic, with construction already begun.

That means detailed planning has begun and the optic-fibre cable is due to be installed by the end of the year.

As well as Civic, the widened footprint for the fast-track work takes in Acton and Ainslie. In addition, several inner-north suburbs have been pushed up the queue and are now due to have work begin within a year. They include Aranda, Bruce, Charwood, Dickson, Kaleen and Lyneham.

An incoming Coalition government is expected to allow existing NBN contracts to run.

Mr Brown said he was pleased

to hear the reassurance from Telstra. "There were rumours that the replacement of the pits here was related to asbestos," he said. "If the old pits and ducts have to be replaced, then disposal is the key issue."

Mr Brown said he had heard that his suburb was now connected and he was keen to have the news confirmed so that he could contact an internet service provider.

Unions have been warning of industrial action unless better asbestos monitoring is enforced.

Communications minister Stephen Conroy said the incidence of exposure was extremely low and of the 120,000 pits remediated by Telstra since 2010, there had been only 29 cases of asbestos incidents.

But he conceded even one case of asbestos exposure was one too many.

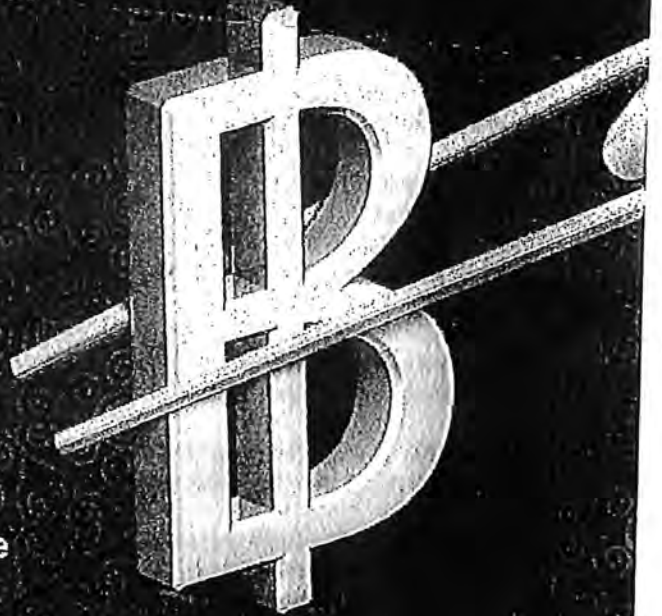
with AAP

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more strike action  
that led to 11 arrests  
other staff set up  
university on West  
negotiations with  
pay and workload  
out just before 9a  
attempted to move  
protesters who  
road. Police arrests  
leading to charges  
infringement not  
including obstruct  
arrest.

## Asian tour

More Chinese tourists are visiting Australia as the strong dollar. New Year's Eve first place, a 20 per cent of the 5.8 million international arrivals in the year to March, number of holiday arrivals from Asia, Australia figures show growth came from numbers increased followed by Singapore, 12 per cent. Australian tourist numbers by cent, despite the A\$ holding parity with the dollar. However, the number of visitors from the US has fallen 3 per cent

# ck Thai



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### **Telstra welcomes Federal Government initiatives on asbestos**

Media Release

03 June 2013

Telstra said today that it shared the Federal Government's focus on reducing public risk from asbestos and outlined initiatives which supported such objectives.

Telstra CEO David Thodey, Chief Operations Officer Brendon Riley and other executives met Federal Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten, union, NBN Co and Departmental representatives in Canberra to discuss this national issue.

Mr Thodey said the meeting had been productive and highlighted cooperative efforts among the various organisations to prioritise the safety of employees, contractors and members of the public.

Telstra requires its employees and contractors to follow stringent procedures for asbestos handling and last week announced a range of operational improvements in response to incidents involving Telstra contractors during pit remediation works.

"As we announced last week, Telstra is taking strong actions in the field including reviewing processes so our employees, contractors and the public are given confidence that asbestos is being handled with care and safety in mind," Mr Thodey said.

"We already have practices, processes and checks in place for our employees when they come into contact with asbestos in our network. However, we are reinforcing the requirements for contractors to comply with our standards, with their safety and broader public safety in mind."

Telstra noted important initiatives related to items covered at today's meeting including -

- **Site inspections:** Telstra's newly announced field force of up to 200 specialists will work with the Office of Asbestos Safety, Comcare, State and Territory work health and safety regulators and local governments to implement a site inspection program.
- **Register:** Telstra supports a national public health register for people to register potential exposure to asbestos and will help publicise the register as part of community consultations on network remediation.
- **Community engagement:** Telstra will engage with local residents and work to accelerate the clean up of any site for which there remains a concern.
- **Prioritised removal:** Telstra will assess the extent to which it can prioritise the removal of pits containing asbestos as part of the NBN rollout.

Telstra already has processes for managing claims of any type from employees and the public to ensure that such claims are handled sensitively and expeditiously. Telstra handles asbestos claims on a case by case basis and claims are met from general operating costs.

In March, the Federal Government introduced legislation into the Parliament to create the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency. Telstra intends to work closely with the agency as it goes about its task of protecting workers and the public from possible exposure to asbestos.

Telstra's actions to date include –

- Up to 200 additional inspection and supervisory jobs will be created to ensure all asbestos-related remediation activity is supervised by an accredited person. Advertising and internal selection for these roles has commenced.
- Telstra will reinforce its high compliance standards with all relevant field employees working with asbestos. This will include every manager reminding their staff about the safety measures that need to be adhered to.
- The temporary stop work on pit remediation will stay in place for contractors (and sub-contractors) until they have completed further training on working with, removing, transporting and disposing of asbestos containing material.
- Telstra will work with Comcare and an accredited training partner to review and update the mandatory training program that all Telstra contractors will need to implement before they are approved to work on Telstra pits.
- Stronger community engagement guidelines to ensure the community is better informed about work in their areas, including longer notification periods, more intensive doorknocking and letterbox drops and improved signage at worksites alerting residents to asbestos-related works.
- Appointment of John Gibbs, Executive Director Network Construction, to oversee all asbestos management activities in Telstra.
- Appointment of PriceWaterhouseCoopers as independent advisers.

Mr Thodey said the Board of Directors would continue to be kept informed on the way these issues are being managed and key developments on the ground.

Any resident concerned about work in their area should contact Telstra on a dedicated hotline number at 1800 067 225.

**Nicole McKechnie**

0429 004 617  
nicole.mckechnie@team.telstra.com

Reference Number: 119/2013

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### **New initiatives to strengthen asbestos management**

Media Release

30 May 2013

Telstra today announced a range of initiatives it would begin implementing immediately as it continued to audit asbestos management work practices.

This includes a new field workforce of up to 200 specialists to directly inspect and supervise all asbestos-related remediation work and mandatory Telstra-designed training for all contractors and subcontractors.

Chief Operations Officer Brendon Riley said Telstra was deeply concerned by the situation and would take every precaution necessary to strengthen Telstra's asbestos management processes.

"These are strong actions reflecting our absolute priority on the safety of our workers, our contractors and the community," Mr Riley said.

"This is our responsibility so we will take direct control of all asbestos related activity performed by our contractors."

The Initiatives Include:

- Up to 200 additional inspection and supervisory jobs will be created to ensure all asbestos-related remediation activity is supervised by an accredited person. Advertising and internal selection for these roles has commenced.
- Telstra will reinforce its high compliance standards with all relevant field employees working with asbestos. This will include every manager reminding their staff about the safety measures that need to be adhered to.

- The temporary stop work on pit remediation will stay in place for contractors (and sub-contractors) until they have completed further training on working with, removing, transporting and disposing of asbestos containing material.
- Following the audit Telstra will work with Comcare and an accredited training partner to review and update the mandatory training program that all Telstra contractors will need to implement before they are approved to work on Telstra pits.
- Stronger community engagement guidelines to ensure the community is better informed about work in their areas, including longer notification periods, more intensive doorknocking and letterbox drops and improved signage at worksites alerting residents to asbestos-related works.

Telstra has established a hotline for any resident concerned about work in their area. The number is 1800 067 225.

Any additional improvements arising from the audit will be progressively shared as they are finalised.

Mr Riley said Telstra would cooperate with the Office of Asbestos Safety to establish and lead a high level working group, with involvement from NBN Co, Comcare and our lead contractors, to implement and monitor an asbestos management plan for maintenance or the NBN rollout.

"This will include engaging all relevant authorities and other parties, including unions, to ensure stakeholders are involved with the steps Telstra is taking to ensure compliance with all Federal legislation and codes of practice," Mr Riley said.

Telstra commenced an audit into the work practices of its contractors last week after a number of incidents of non-compliant asbestos management and removal. The audit is aimed at ensuring the law and our own strict guidelines are adhered to at all times, and to provide the public with confidence in the safety of this process as it occurs.

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### **Telstra appoints independent advisers to review asbestos practices**

Media Release

02 June 2013

Telstra has appointed independent advisers and a 34-year Telstra engineering veteran to ensure Telstra has best practice asbestos management work practices protecting employees, contractors and the public.

The appointments follow a range of operational improvements announced last Thursday in response to recent incidents involving Telstra contractors.

Telstra Chief Operating Officer Brendon Riley today said PriceWaterhouseCoopers would work as the company's independent advisers to help review Telstra systems and processes.

Mr Riley said Executive Director of Telstra Network Construction, John Gibbs, would oversee all asbestos management activities, including current compliance and outcomes from last week's contractor audits. John is one of Telstra's most experienced executives leading complex and large scale construction and engineering projects across Australia.

Telstra will meet Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Bill Shorten, with Federal department, union and NBN Co. representatives in Canberra tomorrow to support a broader coordinated approach to asbestos management in Australia.

"Telstra continues to take major steps to confirm best practice in asbestos management by its employees and ensure that all contractors and sub-contractors meet the same high standards under the Federal Code of Practice," Mr Riley said.

"Our highest priority is the safety and peace of mind of our staff and the community. We will work closely with the Federal Government to do our part in dealing with asbestos risks alongside other industries with potential

exposure.

"We have acted decisively by implementing extra checks, controls and training and adding significant extra people and resources to reassure the community when it comes to our work in the field."

Telstra last week announced a new field workforce of up to 200 specialists to directly inspect and supervise all asbestos-related remediation work as well as mandatory Telstra-designed training for all contractors and sub-contractors.

**Telstra's actions to date include**

- Up to 200 additional inspection and supervisory jobs will be created to ensure all asbestos-related remediation activity is supervised by an accredited person. Advertising and internal selection for these roles has commenced.
- Telstra will reinforce its high compliance standards with all relevant field employees working with asbestos. This will include every manager reminding their staff about the safety measures that need to be adhered to.
- The temporary stop work on pit remediation will stay in place for contractors (and sub-contractors) until they have completed further training on working with, removing, transporting and disposing of asbestos containing material.
- Telstra will work with Comcare and an accredited training partner to review and update the mandatory training program that all Telstra contractors will need to implement before they are approved to work on Telstra pits.
- Stronger community engagement guidelines to ensure the community is better informed about work in their areas, including longer notification periods, more intensive doorknocking and letterbox drops and improved signage at worksites alerting residents to asbestos-related works.
- Appointment of John Gibbs, Executive Director Network Construction, to oversee all asbestos management activities
- Appointment of PriceWaterhouseCoopers as independent advisers

Additional improvements, including any necessary changes from operational reviews of reported incidents in the field, will be progressively announced as they are reviewed and finalised.

Any resident concerned about work in their area should contact Telstra on a dedicated hotline number at 1800 067 225.

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Reference Number: 118/2013

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# UPDATE \*\*\* NBN asbestos fallout – toxic dust everywhere

04 June 2013 | By Graeme Philipson

Published in Listed Tech | 0 Comments

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The controversy over problems with asbestos being removed from Telstra's pipes and pits has blown up. Telstra's share price is falling, and the Government is being blamed.

The national TV news bulletins last evening led with the NBN Telstra asbestos shock horror story. The Opposition is crying foul, the issue dominating Question Time in the House of Representatives and debate in the Senate. And, as always, the Government is copping most of the opprobrium.

Opposition Senate leader Eric Abetz said: "There has been this indecent haste with the roll out of the NBN, and as a result we have had corners cut." Until now the Opposition had been accusing the rollout of being too slow.

The politicisation of the debate continued, to no-one's surprise, when Prime Minister Gillard reminded Opposition leader Tony Abbot of his disparaging remarks about asbestos victim and campaigner Bernie Banton on his deathbed, Ugly stuff.

There was a major meeting on the matter in Canberra yesterday between Telstra's CEO David Thodey and Chief Operations Officer Brendon Riley, NBN CEO Mike Quigley, Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten, unions and departmental representatives. The meeting was tense. There was a feeling of 'here we go again'. Telstra published a long statement after the meeting detailing all the measures it is taking to address the issue:



**Site inspections:** A field force of 'up to' 200 specialists.

**Register:** Telstra supports a national public health register for potential exposure to asbestos.

**Community engagement:** Telstra will engage with local residents and work to accelerate the clean up of any site for which there remains a concern.

**Prioritised removal:** Telstra will assess the extent to which it can prioritise the removal of pits containing asbestos as part of the NBN rollout.

Critics say these actions are not enough, and the real problem is untrained subcontractors doing much of the asbestos removal. Newspaper *The Australian* quotes Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union's David Mier as saying that much of the working has "just been sublet and sublet. It's pyramid subcontracting. It's the biggest subcontracting scam you've ever seen and it can never work."

Yesterday *The Australian Financial Review* ran a story Monday morning saying one of Australia's leading asbestos lawyers believes Telstra faces a "massive unquantifiable liability from the removal of ageing asbestos lining from hundreds of thousands of telecommunications pits and pipes."

Telstra issued a statement rebutting the claim, which stated Turner Freeman managing partner Armando Gardiman had said "Telstra had been long aware of its potential exposure to liability for asbestos-related claims arising from the pits, as it had been paying out former line workers who contracted the deadly mesothelioma disease since the mid-1980s."

In the statement Telstra CEO David Thodey said "We have been managing the risk of the asbestos within our network for many years. Telstra has processes for managing claims of any type from employees and the public to ensure that such claims are handled sensitively and expeditiously.

"We take our responsibilities very seriously in looking after our employees and the community and our highest priority is their safety and peace of mind. Should we form the view that there is a material financial risk to the company or any other material information that is required to be disclosed to the ASX under the Listing Rules, we will take immediate action to notify the market. We do not believe this to be the case at this time."

*The Australian Financial Review* subsequently ran another article twisting the knife by linking the NBN asbestos issue with Telstra's falling share price. Telstra shares closed at \$4.66 yesterday, down nearly 10% from their recent peak in mid-May.

Thodey's statement would seem to indicate that Telstra believes the asbestos issue is part of the problem. Telstra announced the appointment of an independent adviser and a 34-year Telstra engineering veteran to ensure Telstra has 'best practice asbestos management work practices protecting employees, contractors and the public'.

Telstra says the appointments follow a range of operational improvements announced last Thursday in response to recent incidents involving Telstra contractors. Telstra's Executive Director of Network Construction, John Gibbs, will now oversee all asbestos management activities.

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**Graeme Philipson**

Graeme Philipson is senior associate editor at iWire and editor of sister publication CommsWire. He is also founder and Research Director of Connection Research, a market research and analysis firm specialising in the convergence of sustainable, digital and environmental technologies. He has been in the high tech industry for more than 30 years, most of that time as a market researcher, analyst and journalist. He was founding editor of MIS magazine, and is a former editor of Computerworld Australia. He was a research director for Gartner Asia Pacific and research manager for the Yankee Group Australia. He was a long time IT columnist in The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald, and is a recipient of the Kester Award for lifetime achievement in IT Journalism.

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**James, Ross (EDD)**

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**From:** Cox, Ian  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 June 2013 7:42 AM  
**To:** James, Ross (EDD)  
**Subject:** NBN and asbestos

At week ahead yesterday, a request for a quick brief on the asbestos issue and NBN and local implications ... can you charge ahead as quick as you can with that ... more in the press today

thanks Ross