

Media Statement

15th March, 2010

MICHAEL AIRD MLC
TREASURER

Another NBN Milestone

The Treasurer, Michael Aird, today welcomed the announcement of the first NBN retail service providers to offer services over the NBN in Tasmania.

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, today opened NBN Tasmania's new National Broadband Network Proof of Concept Test Centre at Mornington.

“This is yet another step in breaking down the economic and social barriers to deliver better health care, education, and business services to all Tasmanians,” Mr Aird said.

“The NBN is a reality, the NBN is coming and it is coming to Tasmania first.

“It is because of Labor’s decade of broadband strategies and the vision of the Rudd Labor Government, that Tasmania will soon be the most connected place on the planet.

“The Liberal party wanted to privatise our optic fibre backbone which would have condemned Tasmania to forever having the worst broadband penetration in Australia.

“Only Labor can deliver the NBN and only Labor can deliver new generation jobs and maintain the momentum in Tasmania’s economy.”

Mr Aird also congratulated the Tasmanian Electronic Commerce Centre (TECC) for winning the ATUG 2010 Community Sector National Broadband Award in Sydney last week for Hobart’s Wireless Waterfront Project.

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Building a strong Tasmania



“I am thrilled that the TECC has been recognised with a national award for this cutting-edge, innovative project which was strongly supported by the Tasmanian Government,” Mr Aird said.

“Last year, the government contributed \$178 000 to the TECC to support the Wireless Waterfront Project in the Salamanca precinct as part of the TECC's smart city initiative.

“The Premier announced last month that a re-elected Labor Government would commit a further \$350 000 to continue this innovative and creative project and to extend “Wireless Tasmania” to other regions in the state.

“This is the start of Labor’s vision to offer wireless connection in all major CBDs and tourist towns to take competitive telecommunications to every corner of this State.”

Mr Aird said the Wireless Waterfront Project showcases state-of-the-art platforms and creates opportunities to trial digital technology, including the creation of new media for museum and art galleries and next generation tourism information services.

“The ATUG award is validation of Labor’s confidence in the Wireless Waterfront Project and again shows that it is only Labor that has the vision to ensure Tasmania is at the forefront of technologies that will drive economic growth in the 21st Century.”

Mr Aird said that the success of the Wireless Waterfront Project shows that Tasmania is the leading nationwide broadband testbed on many fronts, leveraging off Tasmania’s first mover advantage as the first state to roll out the National Broadband Network.

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