

Centre for Broadband Innovation

Investing in the Community's Access to the Broadband Revolution

Launched by Nick McKim MP

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READY TO DELIVER

***Establish the joint-funded Centre for Broadband
Innovation at the University of Tasmania***

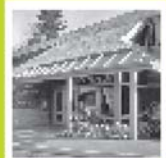
\$5 million establishment funding

***Create a state-of-the-art physical 'test-bed laboratory'
to facilitate real-life trials of new ICT technologies and
applications***

***Establish Tasmania as a leader in ICT research, skills and
expertise, development and productivity***

***Ensure the community can leverage the best outcomes
from the NBN rollout***

POLICY INITIATIVE OF THE TASMANIAN GREENS MPs



Centre for Broadband Innovation

"The National Broadband Network is crucial social infrastructure that should be maximised to underpin Tasmania's transition to a clean, green economy. The Greens' proposed Centre for Broadband Innovation, to be based at the University of Tasmania, will be dedicated to maximising community, social and business benefitting from the broadband revolution."

Nick McKim MP - Greens Leader

THE ISSUE:

The Federal government announced in April 2009 that Tasmania would be first 'cab off the rank' with the roll-out of the National Broadband Network

The NBN is crucial infrastructure that should underpin the State's transition to a clean, green economy for Tasmania - more needs to be done to leverage off the advantages of the NBN roll-out

Labor's NBN plan will target only 90% of the population for the prime Option A fast-track Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)

This means that approximately 68 of Tasmania's small towns will miss out on top quality broadband

Approximately 50,000 Tasmanians live in towns with populations under 1000, and all of these small communities should have access to high speed broadband, just as it will be accessible to those in metropolitan areas

A leveraging and further development strategy to maximise the broadband revolution for Tasmania is needed urgently

THE TASMANIAN GREENS WILL:

- Establish the Centre for Broadband Innovation. A cross-disciplinary research institute dedicated to maximising the social, environmental and economic benefits of broadband technologies**
- Invest \$5 million over three years to establish the Institute in partnership with the University of Tasmania**
- Base the Institute at the University of Tasmania to foster innovation across a broad range of schools and disciplines**
- Facilitate partnership programs with the private sector, and other academic institutions for research and trials of new e-technologies**
- Establish within the Centre a physical test-bed laboratory, - which will provide a state-of-the art facility for network design and planning, product testing etc, - and will be linked to other Tasmanian campuses, and national universities and research institutions.**

The Tasmanian Greens - Delivering the Centre for Broadband Innovation

The Centre for Broadband Innovation will be Tasmania's first cross-disciplinary facility dedicated to the development and trialling of future ICT applications, with a particular focus on developing products, programs and services to ensure that the community leverages the benefits of the NBN roll-out.

The broadband revolution will have a profound impact upon Tasmania's economy and community. We need to ensure that we are positioned to maximise the enormous range of new opportunities which will open up as the network is established. These opportunities will not just be in the computer sciences but will also help transform our health and education systems, the way business is conducted, our environmental management practices, energy efficiencies, as well as our entertainment options.

As a cross-disciplinary facility, the Centre will encourage and foster innovation across a wide range of fields including the Australian Innovation Research Centre, Computing, Economics and Finance, Education, Medicine, the Research Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Centre for Environmental Studies, Engineering, the Menzies Research Institute, and Business.

The Centre will also foster collaboration and skills-development between the private and public sectors.

Benefits of the Centre for Broadband Innovation

- ▲ Position Tasmania to be a leader in ICT technologies and innovation, and maximising the state's capacity to benefit from the broadband revolution
- ▲ Foster the building of a sustainable and modern economy based on ICT technologies and expertise
- ▲ Create new jobs and assist in attracting and retaining skilled ICT workers and researchers
- ▲ Encourage cross-sector collaboration, knowledge and skills sharing
- ▲ Ensure that next ICT generation applications and systems can be developed and tested locally, and then launched into Tasmania's homes and businesses.

The Centre for Broadband Innovation will:

- ▲ Position the University of Tasmania as a recognised leader in the development of broadband enabling and next generation ICT technologies, and to facilitate the broadband-enabling of the Tasmanian community
- ▲ Encourage cross-sector collaboration, knowledge and skills sharing between researchers, industry and government
- ▲ Provide a focus to draw together university resources, foster the establishment of new relationships with industry, and develop a research and innovation plan across key social and economic development areas including the community sector, small business, health, education, and environmental management
- ▲ Position Tasmania to export our broadband and ICT innovation knowledge and skills, especially to the rest of the nation once the NBN rolls out in other states
- ▲ Research impediments to the domestic and commercial take up of new broadband services, as well as research into what drives the adoption of broadband services, and identifying the enabling factors
- ▲ Develop programs and technology to fill the gap where the Federal government's 90% access commitment runs out, ensure that all rural and regional areas, and small towns have the ability to access the NBN

Scope for Broadband Innovation

The Centre for Broadband Innovation will work with government, NGOs, and industry to develop, test and trial ICT applications that will help leverage the benefits of the NBN across the community, and develop Tasmania's reputation as having high-ICT skills and expertise.

The Centre will drive innovation across disciplines including the environment, education, health services, local government, small businesses, energy conservation, water management, our digital industry, and legal and regulatory studies surrounding broadband issues, telecommunications and the entertainment industry.

The Centre for Broadband Innovation will:

- ▲ Prioritise establishing joint-funded programs , including Memorandums of Understandings with ICT industry members
- ▲ Prioritise developing skill and technology partnerships across disciplines, local government, state departments, and the community sector
- ▲ Provide research grant opportunities
- ▲ Facilitate project seed funding.

The establishment of this Centre will position Tasmania to drive new technology development, expertise and services, and be able to meet growing demand in domestic and national markets as the NBN rolls out across the rest of the nation.

Broadband Test-bed Laboratory

The Centre for Broadband Innovation will also establish a physical 'test-bed laboratory' modelled on the successful lab at the University of Melbourne's Institute for Broadband Enabling Society.

The Test-bed Laboratory concept

- ▲ Provides a facility to assist in network design and planning, product trialling and testing, trialling the compatibility of systems, modelling new technology performance and take-up ability etc
- ▲ Provides a state-of-the-art facility for research accessible for innovation researchers, and program partners
- ▲ The test-bed will have fibre connections to different campuses to enable researchers to access the resource no matter where they are located around the state
- ▲ Will facilitate the testing of new ideas and technologies in a controlled but realistic broadband operation
- ▲ Provides for the trialling and verification of new ICT technologies, programs and products
- ▲ Will be linked to, and work co-operatively with, other research and academic institutions

Investment in the Centre for Broadband Innovation

The Centre for Broadband Innovation will be joint-funded by the State and the University of Tasmania. It is also perceived that ongoing partnership programs forged by the Centre will also assist in project and research funding.

| | 2009-10 Budget | 2010-11 Forward Estimate | 2011-12 Forward Estimate | 2012-13 Forward Estimate |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Centre for Broadband Innovation establishment | | 1 000 | 1 000 | 1 000 |
| Test-bed laboratory establishment | | 1000 | 1 000 | |

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