



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Senator Hon Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Amanda Rishworth MP

Federal Member for Kingston

Senator Don Farrell

Senator for South Australia

Broadband Backbone will Link 27,000 People in the South to High-Speed Broadband

Seven communities and almost 27,000 people will benefit from a priority National Broadband Network investment linking Victor Harbor.

“The new 129km regional backbone broadband link connecting Victor Harbor with Adelaide is one of the first building blocks of the National Broadband Network,” said the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy.

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP and South Australian Senator Don Farrell welcomed the priority network route which will benefit 27,000 people along the Southern Adelaide corridor to Victor Harbor.

The route will provide access points in centres including Goolwa, McLaren Vale, Old Noarlunga, Port Elliot, Strathalbyn, Willunga and Mt Barker.

“This priority National Broadband Network investment once again displays the Rudd Governments strong recognition of future business development in the South,” Ms Rishworth said.

“For too long businesses in the South have been left on the sidelines of the high-speed broadband revolution,” Ms Rishworth said.

“Today’s announcement will provide the digital communication highway that will connect businesses in the South to the wider world and will further strengthen the recent jointly funded Federal and State Government commitment to provide state-of-the-art wireless broadband network to residents in the South,” Ms Rishworth said.

The new backbone broadband link connecting Victor Harbor is part of a \$250 million priority investment in six new high-speed backbone links to stimulate competition and better broadband services across regional Australia.

“This broadband backbone will deliver new levels of competition, allowing retail service providers to offer world-class communication services for local consumers, businesses, schools and hospitals,” Senator Farrell said.

“This is just the beginning and the National Broadband Network will ensure high-speed broadband is also expanded to all homes, schools and workplaces across Australia,” Senator Conroy said.

Senator Conroy today signed an agreement with Nextgen Networks to construct 6,000km of new links. Nextgen was selected through a competitive tender process.

In addition, assistance will be provided to regional communities to take full advantage of the new infrastructure through \$5 million funding for regional NBN coordinators.

“The NBN coordinators will work closely with Nextgen, local communities, governments and retail service providers to ensure that they are able to make full use of the new infrastructure.”

More information, maps and a regional broadband backbone fact sheet are online:
www.dbcde.gov.au/blackspots_program