



Australian Government
Department of Communications

Our Reference: MC15-004331

Ms Vanessa O'Keefe
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Dangar Island League
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15 JUL 2015

Dear Ms O'Keefe

Broadband availability on Dangar Island

Thank you for your letter dated 16 June 2015 to the Minister for Communication, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, on behalf of the Dangar Island League concerning the island's current local broadband options. The Minister has asked the Department to respond on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I understand the residents' frustration about having to rely on limited mobile broadband because inadequate capacity at the local telephone exchange precludes access to more suitable fixed line services and your concern how this may impact on local emergency services warnings.

As you have been advised, telecommunications service providers are private companies operating in a competitive market and their operational practices, including upgrading fixed line broadband capacity or improving network performance, are commercial decisions.

For these reasons, the Australian Government has committed to completing the national broadband network as soon as possible. To deliver fast broadband sooner, at less cost to taxpayers and more affordably for consumers, the rollout of Australia's new broadband network will be completed using a multi-technology mix. This will match the right technology to the right location and make use of existing infrastructure where possible.

This approach is predicted to cost \$32 billion less to implement than the former Labor government's plan, get the network finished by 2020 and enable nine out of ten Australians in the fixed line footprint to get access to download speeds of 50 megabits per second (Mbps) or more.

On 2 July 2015, NBN Co Limited (nbn) released an updated National Rollout Plan which provides an indicative view of construction currently underway and scheduled construction work up to December 2016. The complete forecast is available on the www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbnco2/documents/mtm-rollout-plan.pdf

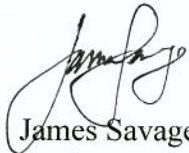
Your residents will be pleased to learn that around 4,200 homes and business in the Berowra region, including Dangar Island, are to be covered using brownfields fixed line technology under the 18-month construction schedule.

As with all construction projects, detailed planning and design influences the timing of activity. nbn intends to update the forward plan every three months to provide further clarity on the detail of its construction schedule ahead of the rollout activity set to occur in the subsequent quarter. This way, households, businesses, service providers and local governments can prepare for the arrival of the new broadband network.

The Government is committed to ensuring the public has as much reliable information about the rollout as possible, and will look for opportunities to provide further certainty. In the meantime, I encourage the residents to monitor the nbn website, particularly via its blog at www.nbnco.com.au/blog.html for regular updates on the network rollout schedule and all matters operational, as well as registering their interest about being notified when they will be able to connect to the new broadband network at www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address/outside-rollout.html

Thank you for bringing your residents' concerns to the Minister's attention. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



James Savage
Assistant Director
Broadband Implementation