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NT Government Welcomes Broadband Announcement

The Northern Territory Government has welcomed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s announcement on the future of the National Broadband Network.

Minister for Information, Communications and Technology Policy, Mr Karl Hampton, said access to high-speed broadband was essential for Australia’s economic future.

“It helps our businesses become more competitive in the global market, and creates jobs for Territorians,” Mr Hampton said.

“Broadband also enables Government to deliver improved services in areas such as health and education.

“That’s why we have joined in partnership with Telstra, the Northern Land Council and Rio Tinto Alcan to install optic fibre across Arnhem Land.”

Minister Hampton said he was particularly pleased that the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, had announced a $250 million investment in backbone fibre optic transmission links, with an emphasis on areas such as the NT where there is limited competition.

“It is important that the people of the Northern Territory have access to competitive service and pricing enjoyed elsewhere in Australia,” Mr Hampton said

“I have already raised the issue with Senator Conroy. I have written to him today, reiterating the Northern Territory’s position, and I look forward to discussing the issue with him further at the earliest opportunity.”

The Commonwealth announced today that it will create a new company to build and operate the National Broadband Network, delivering high-speed broadband services to Australian schools, homes and businesses.

The Commonwealth will hold a majority stake in the company, which will invest up to $43 billion over eight years to build the network.

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