The Territory Part of National Broadband Network Investment

The Territory Government has welcomed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s announcement that Darwin is a priority for investment under the National Broadband Network.

Minister for Information, Communications and Technology Policy Karl Hampton said the decision would cut costs, improve services and create jobs for Territorians.

"We have been fighting for a share of the $250 million that the Prime Minister put on the table to deal with Australia’s fibre optic backbone blackspots," Mr Hampton said.

“I have raised the issue at three separate face-to-face meetings with the Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy.

“I am very pleased with today’s outcome.”

The Prime Minister’s announcement includes a competitive tender to construct, operate and maintain six priority backbone links – with construction expected to begin by September.

The six priority locations are Darwin, Victor Harbour (SA), Geraldton (WA), Broken Hill (NSW), South-West Gippsland (Victoria), and Emerald and Longreach (Queensland).

Mr Hampton said the $43 billion National Broadband Network is the largest nation-building infrastructure project in Australia’s history.

"The high-speed backbone links announced today will stimulate competition and lead to better broadband services in across the Territory,” Mr Hampton said.

“Over the next eight years, we will see the National Broadband Network expanding to include all homes, schools and workplaces across the Territory.”

Contact: Natasha Fyles 044 8866 312