27 October 2010

Broadband Changing Lives in the Bush

Minister for Communication and Technology Policy Karl Hampton today congratulated the Arnhem Land Fibre Project for winning the prestigious ‘Changing Lives’ award at the 2010 Broadband World Forum event held in Paris.

“This project is an indication of the sorts of things we will be able to do, and more, with the National Broadband Network,” Mr Hampton said.

The accolade is the third international award for the Arnhem Land Fibre Project and the tenth achieved overall.

“A collaboration between traditional owners, industry and government, the initiative has seen over 800 kilometres of fibre optic backbone laid from Jabiru to Nhulunbuy,” Mr Hampton said.

“The positive effects on people’s lives are enormous, with nine healthcare centres now using digital conferencing and able to share scan data with health providers across the country.

“Additionally, twelve schools have increased speeds for school access from 256kbps to 20mbps, giving those online educational tools on par with city kids.

“The opposition have consistently rejected the NBN; the CLP clearly they believe people in the bush don’t deserve healthcare and education opportunities.

“Bringing broadband to the bush changes lives, and the Northern Territory Government is proud to be a partner in this fantastic project.”

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