Cheaper faster broadband on the way for Territorians

Territorians are on the way to receiving access to faster, cheaper broadband with the country’s longest fibre optic cable switched on in Darwin today.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today joined Acting Prime Minister and Treasurer Wayne Swan in Darwin to mark the completion of a 3800km fibre optic link from Darwin to Toowoomba.

“Nowhere in the country is more deserving of this project than the Territory; Territorians pay more for their internet and face great challenges of distance,” Mr Henderson said.

“That’s why we lobbied to be one of the first places in the country to benefit from this project which will bring faster cheaper broadband to Territory households and businesses.

“The completion of the Darwin fibre optic backbone link provides a massive injection of competition into the market to drive down the cost of internet services in the Territory.

“With the completion of this project the infrastructure is now open for business for new services providers to come into the market in the New Year and give Territorians better value for money.

“This key infrastructure will also make the Territory more attractive to do business, particularly among the resources sector which relies heavily on fast and reliable telecommunications.

“Unlike the CLP we refused to stand aside and let tight market forces drive up the cost of internet services in the Territory - instead we lobbied for investment in key infrastructure to drive down cost for Territorians.”

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the Darwin fibre optic backbone link built under the Regional Blackspots Program provides a backbone for the NBN to be rolled out from next year.

“Work will begin next year on allowing the first 20,000 homes to be connected,” Mr Henderson said.

“It builds on our key target under the Territory 2030 strategic plan to grow the Territory’s economy, and improving our telecommunications network is a big part of this.”

The Nextgen optic fibre connection to Alice Springs is already seeing several new providers delivering competitive broadband services including Internode, the first alternative ADSL2+ services to those offered by Telstra.

Media contact: Claire March 0403 937 849