



Telephone (02) 4325 8222

Please Quote: 4613552
John Tilston
22 April 2008

Gosford City Council

49 Mann Street
Gosford NSW 2250
PO Box 21
Gosford NSW 2250
DX 7211 Gosford

Telephone: 02 4325 8222
Facsimile: 02 4323 2477
goscity@gosford.nsw.gov.au
www.gosford.nsw.gov.au
ABN 78 303 458 861

Mr Phillip Costa MP
Chair, Standing Committee
on Broadband In Rural And Regional Communities
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

Discussion Paper

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the recent discussion paper titled Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities.

The paper compares the differences between city and rural/regional broadband access. This unfortunately is not as useful as including a comparison to World Best Practice, especially when evaluating the needs of small/medium businesses to remain internationally competitive.

Fringe areas and city growth are impacted by broadband access. As cities grow geographically, business and communities develop in fringes and outlying areas of the city. The availability of broadband in these areas impacts on the ability of a city to grow and also on the population pressure within the city. Business migrations from CBD to the fringes relies on broadband access and a lack of such access increases cost and contention for services within the city.

The focus of the paper on education, health and business with respect to retaining population in rural and regional areas could reference the large amount of emerging "self service" and "self help" information becoming increasingly available. This information is very often media rich and requires significant bandwidth to access.

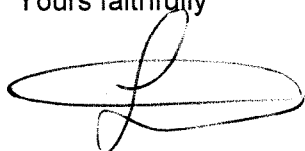
The role of State Government could be to assist where the business models of service providers cannot make provision of broadband services viable. There is no shortage of creative business models, however they all require a minimum level of subscription. The State Government can facilitate the identification of a customer base or provide underwriting until the service becomes viable.

The Digital Divide has great consequences for youth. Social interactions among the emerging workforce is characterised by shared rich media and related services. Such networks facilitate the migration of city professionals into rural areas where desperately

required. There is argument that the absence of these services leads to early return of people to the cities.

Gosford City Council strongly supports the NSW Government Chief Information Office's Wireless Broadband Plan for Sydney and six regional cities, including Gosford.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Terry Thirlwell', written over a horizontal line.

Terry Thirlwell
Acting General Manager