



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Strahan Connected to the NBN

Strahan has officially become the first major West Coast town to connect to the NBN today, with around 400 premises served by the new infrastructure.

Senator for Tasmania Richard Colbeck welcomed the major telecommunications upgrade for the town.

“The Coalition Government is delivering on its election promise to the people of Strahan, who can officially sign up today for an NBN service,” Senator Colbeck said.

“Improving internet and phone access is the Number 1 issue for West Coasters and the Coalition Government has listened and delivered.

“NBN will improve reliability and internet speeds for families and businesses in the region.

“In the coming months we will see the completion of the West Coast NBN rollout and with it Tasmania will become the first State in the Nation to be fully connected.”

“It has been a major feat to rollout the network to the West Coast, which was originally connected to NBN Sky Muster satellite.

“Through co-operation between NBNCo and the State and Federal Governments, the NBN access network has now been extended to Strahan via fixed wireless, utilising the fibre backhaul of Tasmania’s electricity utility TasNetworks.

“The rollout of fibre to the node for the major towns on the West Coast is nearing completion with services expected to be ready for service in Queenstown and Rosebery by October 2018, and Zeehan by the end of 2018.”

Senator Colbeck said recent independent analysis of the NBN access network by research firm AlphaBeta showed that the arrival of the NBN access network ushered in real economic benefits.

“In particular, the *Connecting Australia* report shows that regions connected to the NBN access network are enjoying a boom in the rate of growth in digital economy jobs at a rate of almost five times the national average.

“The arrival of the NBN access network plugs the West Coast into a digital future.”

Visit the NBN website at www.nbnco.com.au to see when you can connect.

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