

## **BRISBANE BROADBAND PROJECT**

- The South East Queensland (SEQ) Council of Mayors has prepared a prospectus of ‘Ready to Go’ infrastructure projects, including a Brisbane Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Network project. The SEQ Council suggests the Brisbane FTTP Network project is consistent with the policy goals of the Government’s National Broadband Network (NBN) initiative.
  - The Ready to Go prospectus is intended as a lobbying tool for more State and Australian Government funding for regional infrastructure.
  - It is likely to be one of many, as cities and regions seek to benefit from a ‘higher priority’ in the rollout of the NBN.
- The Brisbane project would use Brisbane City Council’s existing fibre assets to provide an open access high speed broadband network (over 100 Mbps) in key growth areas of the capital city. The project involves:
  - the rollout of a primary and secondary network in Brisbane; and
  - the establishment of a wholesale entity with two or more subsidiaries to separately build, own, operate and maintain the network.
- The primary and secondary network has been designed to facilitate a future FTTP rollout across the whole of Brisbane. With a business case finalised in December 2008, the SEQ Council suggests the project could be undertaken from 2009 to 2011 at a cost of \$53 million.

### **Suggested response**

- The Australian Government has agreed that implementation of the NBN initiative will be informed by an Implementation Study that will examine the commercial, legal and engineering aspects of the NBN project and develop a detailed implementation plan for the roll-out. This plan will also inform the Government on the timing and sequencing of the roll-out. The Implementation Study is to be completed in early 2010.
- The Australian Government has already announced Tasmania as the launch state for the NBN.
  - The Tasmania NBN Company Limited (TNBN Co) has been established and the board appointed.
  - Work on the rollout in Tasmania began in July 2009. The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy has announced that new trenches will be dug from October and fibre connections to the first premises will be made in December. The first services are expected to be available by July 2010.