



MEDIA RELEASE

SPEEDING UP CONNECTIONS IN THE STATE'S SOUTH-EAST

A high speed broadband infrastructure project to connect 20 government agencies in the state's south-east is underway in Mount Gambier will be finished by April 2009.

Undertaken by the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, the project involves deploying high-speed fibre optic cable and wireless DSL/LAN technology.

This project is part of the state government's strategy to improve bandwidth and network infrastructure across the state's seven major regional centres.

The state governments Chief Information Officer, Andrew Mills, says a key element of broadband development for Mount Gambier is the extension of high speed broadband infrastructure to serve the operational needs of government as well as to lever local business and community benefits in the town.

"A similar development has been actioned at Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta where several government agencies and schools are connected into the state network, improving efficiency of government services and access to broadband services," Mr Mills says.

"The local community in these towns can now access a wider range of commercial broadband services and have greater choice of internet service providers," he says.

Mr Mills claims this is an integral part of this project and that fostering similar benefits in Mount Gambier was a priority.

With the construction of the government fibre installation and termination activities completed, the installation of high speed switching technology to form the network hub was underway to deliver local area network speeds up to 1000 Mbps.

The project, valued at around \$2 million, involves a number of government agencies plus a carrier partner, Nextgen, with each contributing funds to the project supplemented by a grant from the state government's Broadband Development Fund.

The project will deliver high-speed fibre and wireless broadband infrastructure to the inter-capital city national fibre grid at Bordertown, via a 152 kilometre microwave link to Mount Gambier.

A component of the project will be a new commercial and government broadband wireless overlay using WiMAX technology that will extend about 20 kilometres from the town centre.

Currently contractors are strengthening communication towers before they connect the backhaul between Potters Point and Bordertown via microwave. This work should be completed by the end of February 2009.

To arrange media interviews contact Corporate Communications Section 1300 782 567