



## National Broadband Network: Backhaul Blackspots Initiative

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11<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**RE: BACKHAUL BLACKSPOTS INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER  
CONSULTATION PAPER**

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Federal Government 'Backhaul Blackspots' initiative.

The Central Local Government Region of SA welcomes the Australian Government's decision to invest in regional transmission services and wishes to see outcomes that create terrestrial broadband availability to our currently unserved regional centres, towns and surrounds.

*'In regional areas where competing backhaul networks are not present there is little pressure on a supplier to offer low prices and higher quality services. This can mean that internet service providers and other service providers cannot make new services available to consumers in these areas at prices that are competitive, when compared to similar locations that have alternative backhaul supply options.'*

Backhaul Blackspots Initiative Stakeholder Consultation Paper May 2009

The Central Local Government Region (CLGR) incorporates some 15 Councils right across the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Ranges Lower and Mid North areas of South Australia. The member Councils are: The Barossa, Barunga West, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Flinders Ranges, Goyder, Light Regional, Mallala, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie Regional, Wakefield Regional and Yorke Peninsula.

This represents approximately one quarter of the non-metropolitan population and incorporated land mass of South Australia. A regional profile is attached.

Improving telecommunications across the Central Local Government Region, particularly accessibility to modern, affordable broadband has been a key focus of the CLGR for several years now, as is considered essential infrastructure upon which our future economic productivity and social equity is based.

The recent announcement by the Government to embark upon a major long-term national broadband network build is to be commended and, coupled with the Backhaul Blackspots program, provides a realistic opportunity to finally resolve the short term 'digital divide' within a longer term planning and infrastructure context. Copies of previous correspondence to the Federal Minister in relation to this issue are attached.

To that end, the following feedback is offered in relation to backhaul blackspots across our Region and the longer term potential for linkages into a national broadband network:

## **Existing Backhaul & Broadband Coverage**

With 40%\* of the Central Region population currently unable to access terrestrial broadband it is indeed true that internet service providers find they cannot make new services available due to lack of backhaul and prohibitive costs when it is available.

Anecdotal evidence from internet service providers in the Central region indicates backhaul prices that are 300 to 1500% the going rate for a commercial proposition.

A few major township centres are serviced by ADSL 2+, however the vast majority of exchanges are not enabled to ADSL at all.

There are a number of existing terrestrial wireless broadband providers who operate across the Central Local Government Region. Internode have significant coverage on the Yorke Peninsula, Broadband Anywhere within the Wakefield and Adelaide Plains, Amcom across the Barossa and Light districts and Cirrus Communications within parts of the Northern Areas, Pirie, Peterborough and Mt Remarkable districts.

In terms of fibre-based backhaul, the 'Nextgen' fibrelink runs north-south through the region from Port Augusta to Adelaide. Whilst this offers significant potential for breakout access at a number of points in the Region, it currently remains largely inaccessible at this point.

Both Telstra and Optus report to provide mobile wireless broadband across much of the Region, however anecdotally the service is often considered patchy and unreliable, expensive, does not easily provide bundled services and does not offer a robust and viable technological solution, particularly for business users.

A map of indicative existing backhaul is attached.

## **Population Vs Services Model for Fibre and Terrestrial Wireless Solutions**

Across the Central Local Government Region, as indeed South Australia generally, the determination of a 'regional centre' for consideration of backhaul needs is defined less by population base and more through the level and nature of services that exist within a centre.

Communities which concurrently support a range of services are likely to require a higher capacity of backhaul now and into the future than those which support a smaller range of such services for which a robust and scaleable terrestrial wireless solution is a preferable option.

The following set of criteria has been applied across centres in the Central Local Government Region as a guide to determining the relative cost:benefit of a fibre-based backhaul solution or a robust and scaleable terrestrial wireless solution:

Where a township has all of the following services, it has been identified as requiring a fibre-based solution, if not within the parameters of the shorter term 'Backhaul Blackspots' program, certainly under the longer term 'National Broadband Network':

- Council Office
- Library
- Hospital and Doctor Surgery
- Secondary Schooling
- Major Retail Precinct
- Major Industrial or Commercial Activity
- Significant Growth & Development (ie identified within State Planning Strategy)

Not only does this criteria provide a more accurate reflection of the service locations across the Region, but also provides a sound basis for integrating the national objectives and focus under the proposed 'Digital Regions' Initiative.

Centres across the Region which have over 1,000 people and by such inference are expected to be considered favourably for fibre-to-the-premises technology include:

PORT PIRIE-13206, NURIOOTPA-5030, TANUNDA-4683, KADINA-4026, MOONTA-3350, CLARE-3063, WALLAROO-3053, KAPUNDA-2739, LEWISTON-2724, WILLIAMSTOWN-2652, TWO WELLS-2349, ANGASTON-2215, HEWETT-1978, LYNDOK-1829, PETERBOROUGH-1689, FREELING-1634, BALAKLAVA-1627, CRYSTAL BROOK-1549, JAMESTOWN-1407, QUORN-1259, ROSEWORTHY-1163, ARDROSSAN-1122, MAITLAND-1056, MALLALA-1033

Towns of less than 1,000 people, but of significance as a service centre and with a high portion of the above services include:

BURRA-978, PORT BROUGHTON-908, MINLATON-774, GLADSTONE-764, RIVERTON-723, YORKETOWN-685, EUDUNDA-641, ORROROO-634, HAMLEY BRIDGE-783, SNOWTOWN-523, BOOLEROO CENTRE-488, PORT WAKEFIELD-476, HAWKER-361

In assessing the need for backhaul it is also important to take into account the high visitation rate across the Region including significant seasonal population expansion - for example that of coastal communities in peak times, where the smaller coastal towns quadruple in population for one third of the year. Overall, it is estimated that on any given day there are around 9,000\*\* visitors in the area, in addition to the some 110,000 permanent residents of the Region.

A full list of centres across the Central Local Government Region and the respective services is attached.

## **Supporting Terrestrial Wireless Solutions**

### **“Local Providers – Local Jobs – Local Solutions”**

For the vast majority of our Region, short-term access to a reliable, affordable, robust and scaleable terrestrial wireless broadband solution will be a significant step forward and a pursuit of this Association, in conjunction with other regional partners, for several years.

In particular, it is the position of the Central Local Government Region that the most timely, cost-effective and economically responsible broadband solution is to support existing terrestrial wireless broadband providers already operating within the Central Local Government Region, with a view to expanding their current scope and range of broadband service to business and the community in the short term.

With an existing presence and infrastructure already in place, local providers already understand the terrain, the geography and the local needs; are passionate about technology and are innovative and able to move quickly to find and deploy suitable solutions; have a rapport and existing client base within our community and business sector and are generally committed to the local area and the Region.

Furthermore, the expansion of existing local providers also brings the benefit of generating local employment, helping to support and stabilise local economies.

Timely deployment of robust microwave backhaul across the Central Local Government Region utilising existing providers is also highly consistent with the Australian Government desire for achieving multiple benefits including delivering an immediate economic stimulus, achieving better service outcomes for regional consumers, including reduced costs and contributing to the roll-out of the National Broadband Network along with other Australian Government initiatives such as the \$46 million Digital Regions Initiative.

A list of local providers operating across the Central Region, with potential to provide wireless backhaul solutions is attached.

## **Opportunity for Fibre Backhaul Solutions**

As indicated earlier, the ‘NextGen’ fibre link runs along the western length of the Central Local Government Region from Port Augusta in the north, through the Mount Remarkable, Pirie, Wakefield and Mallala Districts in the south.

Opportunity for ‘breakouts’ to this fibre at selected locations is considered essential to significantly expand the backhaul capacity and greatly increase the availability of high speed broadband across the region.

In addition, an exciting opportunity also exists with the potential expansion of the backhaul capacity at Broken Hill in western NSW to form a fibre link through the eastern length of the Central Region back to Adelaide, allowing capacity for breakout at strategic centres along its path including Peterborough, Burra, Clare, Kapunda and the Barossa.

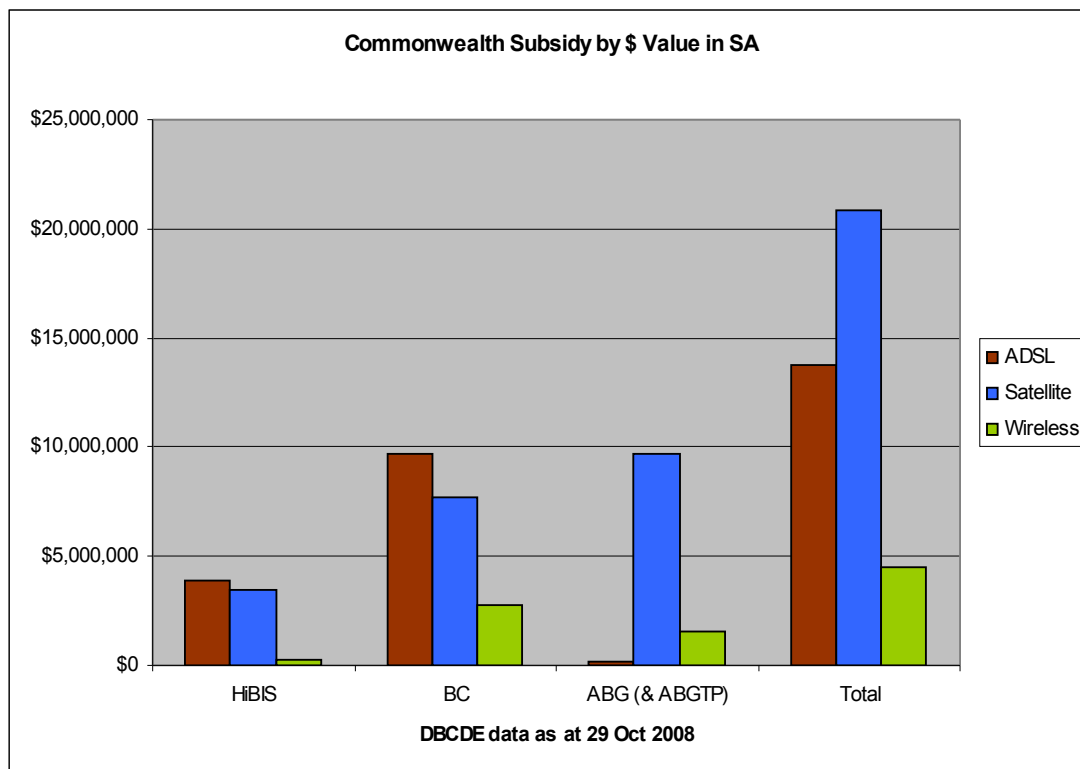
Establishing the two north-south fibre backhaul links in the short term creates opportunity for high capacity, robust, redundancy, cost effective wireless solutions across the remainder of the Region, whilst in the longer term, offers significant opportunity to form part of and expand the proposed National Broadband Network.

## A Word about Satellite

It must be emphasised that the use of satellite technology is not supported by the Central Local Government Region as a suitable, sustainable or viable option across the vast majority of the Region due to its limitations around latency and thus through to subsequent applications such as VOIP and video conferencing.

There is also very little local economic flow-on and benefit gained by deploying satellite technology into communities where either fibre or a robust, scaleable and affordable terrestrial wireless solution is available as an alternative.

The Central Local Government Region has been most disappointed that Australian Government subsidy support to date has substantially favoured satellite providers over more robust, scaleable and sustainable terrestrial wireless options.



## Design and Operational Parameters

In considering the short and long term backhaul solutions, it is the strong view of the Central Local Government Region that where public funds are expended on infrastructure this must be made accessible to other users at a cost that does not prohibit or hinder its intended purpose, nor create a costing structure detrimental to rural end users.

Exclusive access to infrastructure funded in part or in full by the Government should not be supported.

It should also be noted that there is considerable opportunity for the network of Local Government across the Region to support to the construction of new backhaul or broadband service, particularly through access to local knowledge and potential scope for access to existing towers, housing of equipment and anchor tenancy.

## Summary

The Central Local Government Region remains committed to pursuing greater coverage and availability of modern, affordable broadband in a timely manner. As identified earlier, the Backhaul Blackspots initiative, coupled with the longer term rollout of the National Broadband Network are considered significant opportunities to close the digital divide across our rural area.

In summary, the three primary backhaul solutions considered relevant for the Central Local Government Region are:

1. Access to 'NextGen' fibre backhaul at strategic breakout points
2. Construction of new fibre backhaul from Broken Hill – Adelaide with breakouts at major service centres in Central Local Government Region
3. Terrestrial wireless backhaul to remainder of regional service centres utilising local providers

The multiple economic and social benefits these solutions offer not only support our local, regional and state economies and communities but are also highly consistent with the Australian Government objectives to:

- deliver an immediate economic stimulus
- achieve better service outcomes for regional consumers, including reduced costs
- contribute to the roll-out of the National Broadband Network
- contribute to other Australian Government initiatives such as the \$46 million Digital Regions Initiative

I would be very pleased to discuss our position with you further if required and look forward to a successful outcome in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Anita Crisp  
Executive Officer

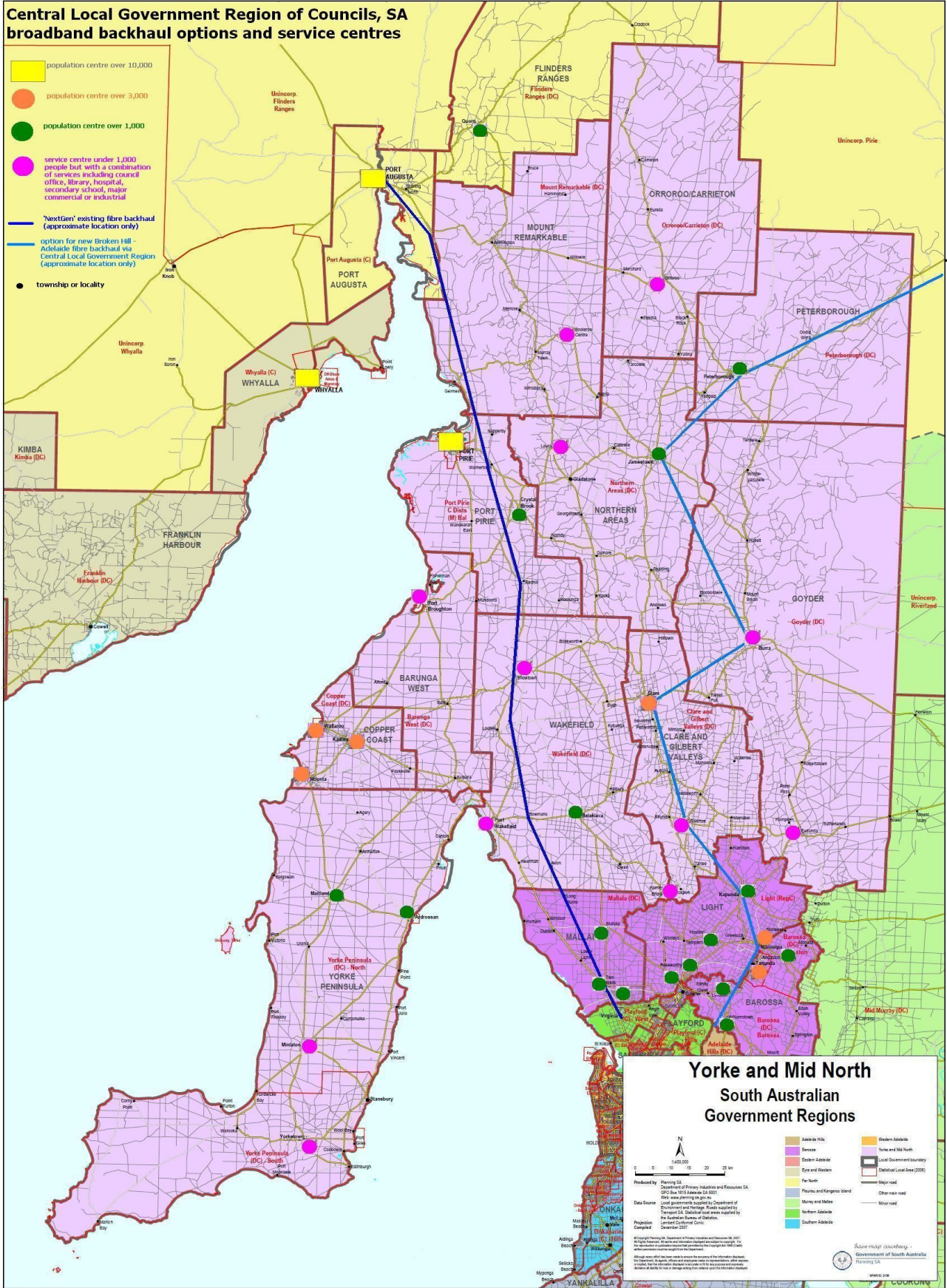
Attachments:

- 1 – Population, Service Centres and Fibre Backhaul Opportunities
- 2 – Terrestrial Wireless Providers
- 3 – Summary Profile of CLGR
- 4 – Service & Population Data by Local Government Area
- 5 – Copies of Previous Correspondence to Minister

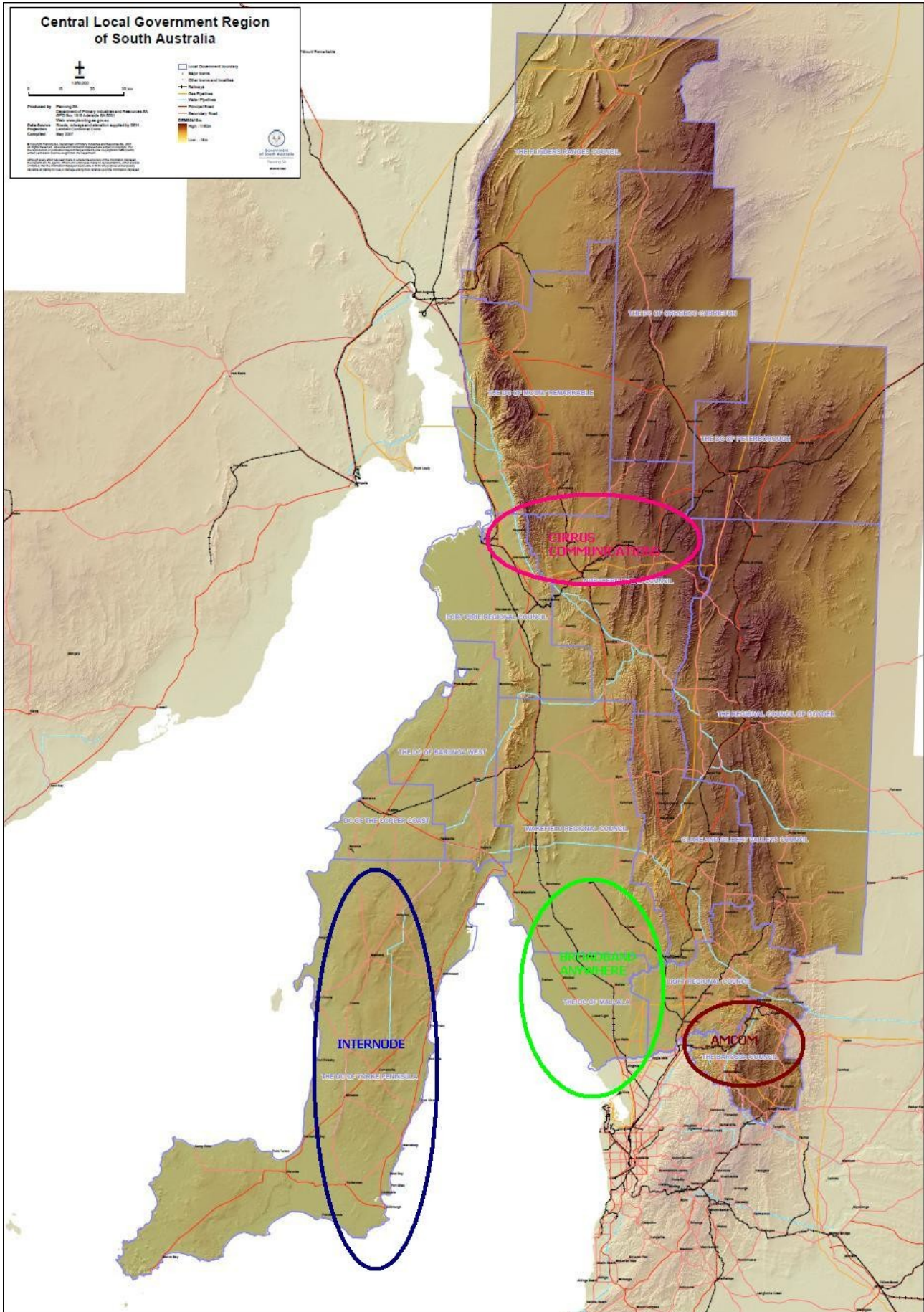
*\* SA Government (2008) 'SA Strategic Plan Update Report'*

*\*\*CLGR (2008) 'Regional Natural Disaster and Risk Mitigation Strategy'*

# ATTACHMENT 1 - POPULATION AND SERVICE CENTRES AND FIBRE BACKHAUL OPPORTUNITIES



## ATTACHMENT 2 - TERRESTRIAL WIRELESS PROVIDERS



## **ATTACHMENT 3 – SUMMARY PROFILE OF THE CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The Central Local Government Region has a widely diverse range of land use activities, of which the key industries comprise agriculture, viticulture, mineral processing, wine making, processing and tourism.

There is significant growth potential in these industries, along with expected mineral exploration and extraction to the north of the region. This diverse industrial base offers increasing levels of rural employment, with resulting economic benefits to the state as a whole, including:

- Urban growth boundary expansion to include substantial portions of the Mallala, Light & Barossa districts and generate additional residential and commercial growth in the surrounding peri-urban areas such as the southern parts of the Goyder, Wakefield & Clare & Gilbert Valleys districts.
- Consolidation of grain facilities within strategic sites located around the region at Wallaroo, Roseworthy, Snowtown and Gladstone and significant road-rail intermodal facilities at Bowmans
- Increase in retirement, coastal and residential development and tourism to the Region, as well as an increase in 'lifestyle' growth in the Barossa, Light, Mallala, Eudunda, Kadina, Copper Coast, Port Wakefield and Clare areas, the Wallaroo Ferry, proposed new residential focus at Buckland Park and marina developments at Port Wakefield and on the Copper Coast.
- Substantial increases in hay storage and processing in recent years across the Lower North, Yorke Peninsula and Kapunda areas
- expansions of export meat abattoir facilities in Peterborough and the intensive animal keeping and ancillary industries around Port Wakefield and Eudunda along with major livestock markets at Dublin and Jamestown.
- Expansion of the Barossa and Clare Valley wine industries including an increase in year-round processing
- Expansion of industrial and warehousing hub in the south of the Region around the Gawler Belt triangle
- Increase in mineral exploration and mine expansions to the north and east of the Region and projected increase in population along with expansion of commercial quarry operations in the Barossa, Yorke Peninsula and Waterloo areas
- Increase in tourism to the Flinders Ranges, particularly through centre and east of the Region
- Wind farm developments across the Region near Hallett, Lochiel-Snowtown, Clements Gap and Tothill Ranges
- Specialist grain processing including lentils and premium pasta products
- Increased e-based business and operational resource-sharing between rural Councils along with Government health and educational facilities

**ATTACHMENT 4 - CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGION – SERVICE AND POPULATION DATA BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

| COUNCIL                           | 2006 DISTRICT POP'N | TOWNSHIPS      | TOWNSHIP POPULATION <sup>1</sup> | COUNCIL OFFICE | LIBRARY | HOSPITAL | SCHOOL (SENIOR/C OMBINED) | MOTELS & TOURIST ACCOMMODATION | MAJOR RETAIL | MAJOR INDUSTRIAL or COMMERCIAL | CURRENT BROADBAND BY PROVIDER & TYPE   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>BAROSSA</b>                    | 20,546              | NURIOOTPA      | 5030                             | ✓              | ✓       |          | ✓                         | ✓                              | ✓            | ✓                              | AMCOM - WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA - ADSL2+; |
|                                   |                     | TANUNDA        | 4683                             |                |         | ✓        | ✓                         | ✓                              | ✓            | ✓                              | AMCOM - WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA - ADSL2+; |
|                                   |                     | ANGASTON       | 2215                             |                |         | ✓        |                           | ✓                              | ✓            | ✓                              | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | LYNDOCH        | 1829                             |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | MT PLEASANT    | 921                              |                |         | ✓        |                           | ✓                              |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | WILLIAMSTOWN   | 2652                             |                |         |          |                           | ✓                              | ✓            |                                | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | STOCKWELL      | 534                              |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | RURAL          | 2,682                            |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
| <b>BARUNGA WEST</b>               | 2,546               | PORT BROUGHTON | 908                              | ✓              | ✓       | ✓        | ✓                         | ✓                              | ✓            | ✓                              | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | BUTE           | 567                              |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | FISHERMANS BAY | 209                              |                |         |          |                           | ✓                              |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | ALFORD         | 70                               |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | KULPARA        | 183                              |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | MUNDOORA       | 248                              |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | RURAL          | 361                              |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
| <b>CLARE &amp; GILBERT VALLEY</b> | 8,143               | CLARE          | 3063                             | ✓              | ✓       | ✓        | ✓                         | ✓                              | ✓            | ✓                              | TELSTRA ADSL 2+;                       |
|                                   |                     | RIVERTON       | 723                              | ✓              | ✓       | ✓        | ✓                         | ✓                              | ✓            | ✓                              | TELSTRA ADSL 2+;                       |
|                                   |                     | SADDLEWORTH    | 634                              | ✓              | ✓       |          |                           | ✓                              | ✓            |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | AUBURN         | 661                              |                |         |          |                           | ✓                              |              | ✓                              | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | MARRABEL       | 209                              |                |         |          |                           |                                |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | WATERVALE      | 293                              |                |         |          |                           | ✓                              |              |                                | TELSTRA ADSL;                          |
|                                   |                     | SEVENHILL      | 418                              |                |         |          |                           | ✓                              |              |                                |  |
|                                   |                     | MINTARO        | 223                              |                |         |          |                           | ✓                              |              | ✓                              |  |

<sup>1</sup> Based on ABS 2006 census data, gazetted state suburb

|                        |        |              |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|------------------------|--------|--------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
|                        |        | MANOORA      | 277   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | RHYNIE       | 362   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | TARLEE       | 288   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                        |
|                        |        | RURAL        | 992   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
| <b>COPPER COAST</b>    | 11,446 | KADINA       | 4026  | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL 2+;                     |
|                        |        | MOONTA       | 3350  |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | TELSTRA ADSL 2+;                     |
|                        |        | WALLAROO     | 3053  |   |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL 2+;                     |
|                        |        | PASKEVILLE   | 473   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | PORT HUGHES  | 222   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | TICKERA      | 249   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | RURAL        | 73    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
| <b>FLINDERS RANGES</b> | 1,730  | QUORN        | 1259  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                        |
|                        |        | HAWKER       | 361   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                        |
|                        |        | CRADDOCK     | 5     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | RURAL        | 105   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
| <b>GOYDER</b>          | 4,185  | BURRA        | 978   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                        |
|                        |        | BOOBOROWIE   | 267   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | EUDUNDA      | 641   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                        |
|                        |        | FARRELL FLAT | 294   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | HALLETT      | 210   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | ROBERTSTOWN  | 318   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | TEROWIE      | 145   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
|                        |        | RURAL        | 1,332 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |
| <b>LIGHT</b>           | 12,359 | KAPUNDA      | 2739  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | AMCOM - WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA - ADSL; |
|                        |        | FREELING     | 1634  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA - ADSL;                      |
|                        |        | GREENOCK     | 685   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                        |
|                        |        | HEWETT       | 1978  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | UNKNOWN                              |
|                        |        | ROSEWORTHY   | 1163  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA - ADSL;                      |
|                        |        | WASLEYS      | 611   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                      |

|                         |       |                   |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                         |       | TRURO             | 550   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | RURAL             | 2,999 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>MALLALA</b>          | 7,900 | MALLALA           | 1033  | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL |
|                         |       | TWO WELLS         | 2349  |   |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL |
|                         |       | DUBLIN            | 241   |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
|                         |       | LEWISTON          | 2724  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
|                         |       | MIDDLE BEACH      | 366   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
|                         |       | THOMPSON BEACH    | 291   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
|                         |       | PARHAM            | 212   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
|                         |       | REDBANKS          | 274   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
|                         |       | WILD HORSE PLAINS | 415   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;              |
| <b>MOUNT REMARKABLE</b> | 2,842 | MELROSE           | 431   | ✓ |   |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | BOULEROO CENTRE   | 488   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | WILMINGTON        | 628   |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | APPILA            | 50    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | WIRRABARA         | 624   |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | HAMMOND           | 12    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                         |       | PORT FLINDERS     | 208   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | PORT GERMEIN      | 465   |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
| <b>NORTHERN AREAS</b>   | 4,650 | JAMESTOWN         | 1407  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ | CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL2+;          |
|                         |       | GLADSTONE         | 764   | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ | CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL2+;          |
|                         |       | GEORGETOWN        | 119   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                         |       | SPALDING          | 303   | ✓ |   |   |   |   |   |   | TELSTRA ADSL;                             |
|                         |       | YACKA             | 208   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                         |       | LAURA             | 571   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;            |
|                         |       | CALTOWIE          | 206   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|                          |        |                |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                          |        | GULNARE        | 95    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | STONE HUT      | 287   |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
|                          |        | TARCOWIE       | 215   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | RURAL          | 475   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>ORROROO/CARRIETON</b> | 935    | ORROROO        | 634   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                                       |
|                          |        | CARRIETON      | 129   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | PEKINA         | 172   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>PETERBOROUGH</b>      | 1,904  | PETERBOROUGH   | 1689  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;                      |
|                          |        | YONGALA        | 20    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | OODLAWIRRA     | 20    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>PORT PIRIE</b>        | 17,142 | PORT PIRIE     | 13206 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | CIRRUS WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL2+;                    |
|                          |        | CRYSTAL BROOK  | 1549  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                                       |
|                          |        | KOOLUNGA       | 204   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | NAPPERBY       | 814   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | REDHILL        | 217   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | WARNERTOWN     | 532   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>WAKEFIELD</b>         | 6,372  | BALAKLAVA      | 1627  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | TELSTRA ADS2+L;                                     |
|                          |        | BLYTH          | 306   |   |   |   |   |   |   | ✓ | TELSTRA ADSL;                                       |
|                          |        | BRINKWORTH     | 401   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | HAMLEY BRIDGE  | 783   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; (SOME)                 |
|                          |        | LOCHIEL        | 168   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|                          |        | OWEN           | 422   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS;                        |
|                          |        | PORT WAKEFIELD | 476   |   |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | BROADBAND ANYWHERE WIRELESS; TELSTRA ADSL;          |
|                          |        | SNOWTOWN       | 523   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| <b>YORKE PENINSULA</b>   | 11,190 | MAITLAND       | 1056  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | INTERNODE - WIRELESS; AGILE ADSL2+; TELSTRA ADSL2+; |
|                          |        | MINLATON       | 774   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | INTERNODE - WIRELESS; AGILE ADSL2+; TELSTRA ADSL2+; |

|  |  |               |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|---------------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  | YORKETOWN     | 685  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | INTERNODE - WIRELESS;<br>AGILE ADSL2+; TELSTRA<br>ADSL2+; |
|  |  | WAROOKA       | 247  | ✓ |   |   |   |   |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA ADSL;                      |
|  |  | ARDROSSAN     | 1122 |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | INTERNODE - WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA ADSL;                    |
|  |  | ARTHURTON     | 295  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;                                       |
|  |  | CURRAMULKA    | 148  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA ADSL;                      |
|  |  | EDITHBURG     | 512  |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA ADSL;                      |
|  |  | MARION BAY    | 138  |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;                                       |
|  |  | POINT TURTON  | 205  |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;                                       |
|  |  | PORT VICTORIA | 513  |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA ADSL;                      |
|  |  | PORT VINCENT  | 472  |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;<br>TELSTRA ADSL;                      |
|  |  | STANSBURY     | 522  |   |   |   |   | ✓ |   |   | INTERNODE WIRELESS;                                       |

## **ATTACHMENT 5 – COPIES OF PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE TO MINISTER**

**COPY**

Senator the Hon S. M. Conroy  
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

5<sup>th</sup> September 2008

### **RE: REGIONAL BROADBAND SOLUTIONS**

Dear Senator Conroy,

Thank you for making time available during your recent visit to Yorke Peninsula (19/08/08) to meet with myself and our Broadband Project Officer, Louise Sladdin. Further to this discussion, I am writing to advise of our Region's position in relation to progressing the rollout of modern, affordable broadband services and to highlight some of the key barriers to achieving this, from our perspective.

The Central Local Government Region (CLGR) incorporates some 15 Councils right across the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Ranges Lower and Mid North areas of South Australia. The member Councils are: The Barossa, Barunga West, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Copper Coast, Flinders Ranges, Goyder, Light Regional, Mallala, Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Pirie Regional, Wakefield Regional and Yorke Peninsula. This represents approximately one quarter of the non-metropolitan population and incorporated land mass of South Australia.

Improving telecommunications across the Central Local Government Region, particularly the deployment of terrestrial wireless networks and accessibility to modern, affordable broadband continues to be a key focus of the CLGR as, like your own view, it is considered essential infrastructure upon which our future economic productivity and social equity is based.

Over the past four years, the Central Local Government Region has undertaken a comprehensive demand aggregation across twelve of our fifteen Council districts (excluding Yorke Peninsula, Barossa and Light districts), prepared a business case and sought expressions of interest from providers to deploy a whole of region broadband solution. Unfortunately, our preferred provider formally withdrew in February 2007 due to a range of internal and external influences.

Since that time of course there have been substantial changes to broadband funding and program policy at Federal level, including a change of Government. As you can appreciate, community expectations have been raised – and dashed – repeatedly over the span of the last 18-24 months.

With the current position of the new Federal government now relatively clear, we have been re-considering the best approach towards reinvigorating our push for improved broadband services across our Region and to that end, have agreed to:

continue to support all terrestrial wireless broadband providers operating within the Central Local Government Region with a view to expanding their current scope and range of broadband service to business and the community in a timely fashion;

seek from Federal and State Government support for greater equity within funding and policy structures for all broadband providers operating within our Region, in order to maximise opportunity and choice for business and community.

Fundamentally, the position of the Central Region is that we are seeking fairness and equity in policy and funding that supports the most timely and widest possible rollout of modern and affordable broadband to our businesses and communities. This imperative is underpinned by the following information -

40% of our overall population base remains currently underserved by terrestrial broadband, despite most communities being within approximately 250km from the Adelaide city centre and some within 50km in a major growth zone.

Many of the underserved Councils within the region are faced with STD telephone calls between branch offices or depots and deliver services in towns without broadband (ADSL or terrestrial wireless)

Many offices and workplaces in the region requiring broadband access in multiple locations across the region and state find there is no cost-effective solution available. Furthermore, opportunities for increasing home-based or tele-working roles as either a work-life balance choice or as an organisational workforce recruitment strategy remain out of reach whilst the technology remains unavailable.

Lack of services in the Central Region is increasingly a factor in lost productivity, for both the region and the state. The recently released report on economic benefits of broadband adoption on the Yorke Peninsula district alone was estimated at \$9.4 million, with flow on state-wide benefits of \$11.2 million annually by 2010. This network deployment utilised Australian and South Australian government subsidies of \$2.45 million - a positive result for minimal government infrastructure outlay.

The social benefits of broadband are many, and especially in the regions, highly valued, yet the continuing isolation and exclusion through lack of contact with family and friends is widely experienced across our region and state as a result of the current digital divide.

Unfortunately, the gap between those with and those without broadband continues to widen – far from being a technology that closes the city/country divide we are now being left further and further behind as new technologies are continually introduced into metropolitan areas first. Many in the Central Region are still on very poor dial-up connections.

To that end, the CLGR has been active in providing advice to the Federal Government over recent months in relation to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review, Australian Broadband Guarantee guidelines 2008-09 DRAFT, National Broadband Network (NBN) Rural and Remote Solutions Review and would like to draw to your attention several key issues which we believe to be hampering the greater rollout of metro-comparable broadband services across our region:

There are a number of terrestrial wireless broadband providers who have been successfully operating and expanding in our region without previous Government assistance and who are now being unfairly disadvantaged through the preferential Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) registration fast-tracking process for previously registered providers (including satellite!) – despite being the only wireless providers actually operating in these areas. The recent extension time for ABG registrations is causing further delays for applicants, who are unable to confidently move forward – resulting in damage to their own operations and continued lack of service for the

community. Registration for commercial terrestrial wireless broadband providers operating in the CLGR, in addition to the fast-tracking of previously ABG registered providers operating in other parts of the state will enable prompt establishment of further new backhaul capacity in the region and provide enormous and long awaited benefits to businesses and households, for the many who cannot access ADSL services and whose only option to date has been satellite or expensive Telstra 3G.

Adequacy of Satellite Services – When compared to terrestrial broadband, satellite-based broadband cannot provide effective VOIP, videoconferencing or other associated broadband services at metro-parity pricing, yet has and continues to be promoted as a 'first' rather than 'last' option for many in our community. The definitions of the level of service must be reconsidered and satellite promoted by Government as a last resort only. Furthermore, there have been many issues across our region where consumers have been advised to take up a satellite broadband service as their only available option, however, when a superior terrestrial solution has then become available, they face, in many cases, substantial upfront or ongoing costs as are not eligible to receive any further ABG subsidy.

Spectrum Licensing – "use it or lose it". As indicated by the South Australian Government in their submission to the NBN Rural and Remote Solutions Review, operators who hold licensed spectrum should be encouraged to utilise this to provide a service within a prescribed timeframe, rather than hold it, undeveloped, indefinitely and thereby hampering a community's ability to facilitate services from another provider in a more timely fashion.

ISDN Home – The closure of Telstra ISDN home and BigPond ISDN services on 31 December 2008 will leave those without access to ADSL further disadvantaged.

The cost of equipment and installation being charged to consumers upfront versus cost being amortised over the life of plan is an issue for businesses or households where terrestrial wireless is becoming available as a solution and an ABG incentive payment is not available.

Broadband as a Basic Infrastructure – Provision of broadband services, fibre or wireless, needs to be planned and implemented as part of new residential or commercial developments, particularly in the fast growing peri-urban zones along with regional and rural townships.

The Central Local Government Region remains committed to pursuing greater coverage and availability of modern, affordable broadband in a timely manner. We are, however, seeking your support to help reduce some of these identified barriers and create a more open and fair platform for providers to support the efforts of our Councils and our communities.

I would be very pleased to discuss our position with you further if required and look forward to a successful outcome in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Anita Crisp  
Executive Officer

Cc: Nick Champion Member for Wakefield, Rowan Ramsey Member for Grey, Minister Paul Caica, Local Government Association of SA

Senator the Hon S. M. Conroy  
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

1<sup>st</sup> December 2008

**RE: REGIONAL BROADBAND SOLUTIONS**

Dear Minister,

I refer to our correspondence of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008 regarding the position of our Regional Local Government Association in relation to improving access to broadband services and creating a more open and fair platform for providers, particularly those already operating within our Region.

I note that we have not received any response to our request for your support to implement the solutions offered and help reduce some of the identified barriers.

Following the successes accomplished by South Australian company Internode across the Yorke Peninsula district, the Central Local Government Region has taken a strong position in supporting terrestrial wireless broadband providers who are already operating within the Central Local Government Region; who understand the terrain, the geography and the local needs; who are innovative and nimble; who have a rapport and existing (albeit small) client base in our community and business sector and who are committed to trying to expand their current scope and range of broadband service to best suit the needs of our Region in a timely fashion.

To that end, we have been trying, without success, to clarify from your Department the status of Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) registration for two local providers whom we are supporting in their endeavours, namely Broadband Anywhere and Cirrus Communications.

Both companies are still awaiting advice from the Department regarding their approval under the ABG, despite lodging their registration some months ago.

With around 40% of our Region still under-served by a reliable, modern and affordable broadband service, there is increasing frustration by the community, local Councils and business as to why existing, local terrestrial wireless providers are not being supported by Government and cannot therefore expand and provide a local, affordable solution to meet this growing need.

Whilst the Government's National Broadband Network rollout of fibre to the node technology is to be commended, it is unlikely to reach a large proportion of our regional population, with a significant time delay (years) for those larger centres which may possibly be covered.

We are now seeking your urgent support in 'closing the gap' and facilitating the most timely and widest possible rollout of modern, reliable and affordable broadband to our businesses and communities, using locally available solutions.

I would be very pleased to discuss this matter further if required and sincerely hope for a timely and successful outcome in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Anita Crisp  
Executive Officer

Cc: Nick Champion Member for Wakefield, Rowan Ramsey Member for Grey, Senator Nick Minchin, Senator Mary-Jo Fisher, Senator Nick Xenophon, Local Government Association of SA