

11 June 2009

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## Government Media Statement

**DAVID BARTLETT**  
Premier

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### Maximising Tasmania's Broadband Opportunities

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Premier David Bartlett, today announced a range of initiatives to ensure Tasmania is able to maximise broadband opportunities associated with the National Broadband Network (NBN).

“The eyes of the nation, if not the world, are focused on Tasmania as it prepares to commence the implementation of a statewide fibre-to-the-premises network that will target some 200,000 properties.

“The NBN rollout in Tasmania is a historic event that will transform our economy creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs and businesses.

“By maximising broadband opportunities we are therefore investing in hundreds of new jobs that can be created as a result of the NBN roll-out in this state.”

#### **Broadband initiatives in the 2009-10 State Budget:**

- \$12.7 million equity contribution to Aurora Energy for the future operation of their optic fibre network
- \$1 million for legal and advisory support to assist with the establishment of the NBN.
- \$1 million (over three years) to support the Tasmanian Electronic Commerce Centre (TECC)
- Creation of a Digital Futures Advisory Committee to identify opportunities associated with the NBN.

## **Supporting the National Broadband Network**

“Aurora's optic fibre network will be used for the NBN in Tasmania.

“As foreshadowed in November 2008, the Government will make an equity contribution to Aurora Energy of \$12.7 million in support of our strategic partnership agreement with Aurora for the future operation of their network.

“Provisions have also been made for expected legal costs and advisory support.”

## **Maximising opportunities and jobs**

“Hundreds of millions of dollars is expected to be spent on construction, there will also be opportunities to attract additional investment in support infrastructure, specialised training facilities, dedicated research and development teams and a host of national and international suppliers looking to prepare for the national roll-out.

“The TECC was a key to the success of the TasCOLT Fibre-to-the-Home pilot project, upon which Tasmania’s successful NBN proposal was based.

“The TECC has a vital future role to play in ensuring Tasmania maximises the opportunities that will arise as the NBN rolls-out across the state.

“That is why the Government will provide over \$1 million over the next three years in support of the TECC.

“The Government will also create a Digital Futures Advisory Committee to identify significant opportunities associated with the NBN.

“The Committee will be co-ordinated by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts to identify and capture development, employment and investment opportunities that are likely to arise over the next 12 months.”

Mr Bartlett said the taskforce would represent a collaborative approach between Government agencies, industry bodies and key stakeholders to ensure maximum Tasmanian employment and industry participation throughout the project.

“The NBN will underpin productivity growth for small and medium businesses in the services sector as well as drive productivity growth for our traditional sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing improving their global competitiveness and creating jobs.

“It is also important to recognise what this will do for our health and education services.

“Tasmania will be the first state to have fibre-to-the- premises network connecting hospitals and schools, dramatically improving access to expert advice, knowledge and the provision services to our communities that would otherwise be unattainable.

“The Tasmanian Government will begin implementing a range of activities designed to raise awareness and understanding of the network, including forums and events to stimulate creative thinking about future opportunities.

“The State Government is committed to leveraging Tasmania’s unique position as the point of origin for the National Broadband Network.”