



**AUGUST 2010**

**Official Newsletter of  
Regional Development Australia—Central Coast NSW Inc.**

**August Forum**

**CONNECTING  
THE COAST**

**BROADBAND**

**Inside this issue:**

<b>Hunter Central Coast Broadband</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Connecting Youthful Minds</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NBN Co</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Focus on the Coast</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Future Forums</b>	<b>4</b>

## CENTRAL COAST HUNTER BROADBAND PROJECT

Regional Development Australia Hunter and Regional Development Australia Central Coast (referred to jointly as Regional Development Australia) are currently engaged in a project aimed at presenting the Hunter and Central Coast as priority regions for the rollout of the National Broadband Network.

The project has focused primarily on areas that will present the Hunter and Central Coast as an attractive proposition from a rollout perspective. Given the complexity and scale of the National Broadband Network the project has focused on areas that highlight the fact that the region is informed, co-operative and capable.

This preparedness has been assessed across the following areas:

1. Identification of Key Issues Impacting Local Government Areas (LGA's) in the participation in the NBN rollout.
2. Community Engagement in order to champion the benefits, highlight the opportunities and to discuss the challenges associated with the rollout.

3. Industry and Business engagement in order to provide up to date and relevant information with regards to the rollout.
4. Training Employment and Skills opportunities.

Regional Development Australia is working closely with NBN Co and the 13 associated Hunter and Central Coast Councils to ensure that the region will be well placed when decisions are made with regard to the next rollout locations.

**James Vidler**  
Project Manager  
Hunter Central Coast  
Broadband Project



## CONNECTING YOUTHFUL MINDS

The youthful energy of opportunity that fibre based broadband represents should be seen as a broad metaphor of growth for the future of the Central Coast.

Despite all the technical talk of Mbit/sec, WiFi, xDSL, VOIP etc super fast, stable broadband connections are about connecting minds together in productive new ways.

The Central Coast, more than most other regions stands to gain enormously from a connecting of minds. Our massive commuting population stands to gain by a reduced commute. Our skilled under-employed workers stand to gain in the increased opportunity that such a network will do for employment generation and our

large regional youth population instead of being putting up with will have a conduit for education, training and productive export. Our existing and new businesses will have an 'export path' for their knowledge, services and collaboration.

To look into the future of what this will mean is demonstrated by Youth Connections trainee, Matt McCaughey, who of thousands of entries was recently announced the music category winner of the Sony make.believe Experiences Competition. Check out the YouTube video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gi-rxsQLKE>

**Dave Abrahams**

## HEALTHe

New and more cost effective models of health care can be delivered more efficiently via Broadband Networks.

A local firm, Hunter Nursing and it's parent Healthe Care (owner of Gosford Private, Lingard Private, Toronto Private and Maitland Private) are leading the way with Remote Patient Monitoring.

A new model of care that is proving to be very effective for patients, clinicians and the funding organisations that are responsible for paying the costs of caring for the patient.

Remote Patient Monitoring combines an in-home patient device, in this instance, the Intel Health Guide PHS6000, with the Intel Health Care Management Suite, an online interface that allows clinicians to securely monitor patients in their homes and manage care remotely. It was designed to help address the challenges of chronic conditions for patients, their family caregivers and the health care professionals responsible for their care.

The Intel Health Guide offers interactive tools for personalised care management and includes vital sign collection, patient reminders, surveys, multimedia educational content, and feedback and communications tools such as video conferencing and email notifications. It can connect to specific models of wired and wireless medical devices, including blood pressure monitors, glucose metres, pulse oximeters, peak flow meters and weight scales. Using a secure server, health care professionals can remotely review and act on this information.

As a result, clinicians are gaining ongoing access to data so that they can better manage each patient's conditions. Patients benefit from customised care in the comfort of their home and can also monitor their health status and communicate with care teams.

Broadband-enabled High Definition video conference capability is enabling Clinicians to monitor and communicate with patients in their home as well as provide patients with high definition video education material on demand.

Other benefits that Healthe is seeing from Broadband-enabled Remote Patient Monitoring include:-

- Reduced medical costs including Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalisations for elderly patients with chronic illnesses.
- Improved Quality of Care as patients are receiving daily feedback and proactive communication.
- Improved Patient Safety
- Improved Patient Satisfaction
- Improved Staff Productivity as Healthe is now able to cater for more patients with the existing number of nurses.
- Improved Policy and Public Health Outcomes as Remote Patient Monitoring enables fewer home visits and therefore less mileage driven and fuel consumed producing a lower carbon footprint.
- Increased Clinical Staff Satisfaction

More recently Healthe has been providing the service to patients in Scottsdale that reside on the new National Broadband Network.

This has produced very positive results when compared to the current 3G, ADSL and Satellite performance that we've been experiencing.

FTTP fibre optic broadband is proving to be a big leap ahead of current broadband modes such as 3G, ADSL and Satellite.

**Anthony Fanning**  
Director  
Healthe Tech Pty Ltd



## NBNCo

NBN Co, represented by Duncan Bremner, Stakeholder Relations delivered a presentation outlining NBN Co plans.

NBN Co will design, build and operate a wholesale-only, superfast broadband network that will provide speeds of 100 megabits/sec to 93% of Australian premises and 12 megabits/sec to 7%, subject to final design.

Mr Bremner outlined NBN Co objectives:

- \* Coverage
  - Ubiquitous
  - Fibre, wireless & satellite
- \* Competition
  - Wholesale only
  - Open Access
- \* Cost Effective
  - Financially viable

Some of the things that NBN Co are doing..

- \* Targeted and continuous community involvement throughout the construction of the new network
- \* Making sure that suppliers are engaged as partners and are a key component of our community engagement process
- \* Ensuring ongoing grassroots representation through a dedicated community and construction executive role within NBN Co Construction group
- \* Achieving a fully transparent engagement model at all stakeholder levels

Mr Bremner stated that "Community satisfaction is a key success factor for construction roll-out".

Website: [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au)



## Q & A

Each Focus on the Coast forum gives the community the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters and other members of the forum. Some of the questions and answers are printed in our newsletter. For all questions and answers from the forum please visit our website [www.rdacc.org.au](http://www.rdacc.org.au)

In light of Australia's strong position in terms of finance, health and education, does not your graph of Australia being lowest/off the page serve to say how well we are doing without the proposed amount of money; skills; up-skilling and community upheaval?

Improved Telecommunications is vital if we are to maintain our position in these areas. The fact of the matter is that the rest of the world is hurtling toward

this type of solution not only because of the Health and Education Benefits but because of the enormous benefits to small, medium and large businesses.

This type of infrastructure opens up new markets and new possibilities.

It provides an environment (until now only dreamt of) that will lead to innovation across all sectors leading to improved services to everyone.

There are many international studies that indicate that the cost of these types of infrastructures increase GDP more than the cost of construction. If we do not do then we will slide from our current relatively healthy position in terms of finance, education and health.

James Vidler  
RDA Hunter



**Regional  
Development  
Australia  
Central Coast  
NSW Inc.**

Business Incubator  
North Loop Road  
University of Newcastle  
Central Coast Campus  
10 Chittaway Road  
PO Box 240  
OURIMBAH NSW 2258

Phone: 02 4349 4949  
Fax: 02 4349 4956  
E-mail: [elizabeth.westrup@rdacc.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.westrup@rdacc.org.au)

**[www.rdacc.org.au](http://www.rdacc.org.au)**



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

## FOCUS ON REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Regional Development Australia Central Coast (RDACC) is facilitating Focus on the Coast forums to provide local residents with the opportunity to participate in a consultative process that identifies priorities, aligns resources and promotes solutions. These forums will enable the community to provide input to governments about issues and opportunities in our local area.

## FUTURE FORUMS

**16 September 2010**

**Climate Change**

**21 October 2010**

**Health Services**

**18 November 2010**

**TBC**

To register your interest call Elizabeth Westrup on 4349 4949  
or email [elizabeth.westrup@rdacc.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.westrup@rdacc.org.au)