

# Local government planning

## Introduction

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is a key priority for the Commonwealth Government. NBN Co Limited (NBN Co), the company set up to build and operate the wholesale network, is planning to facilitate the rollout of the network through positive engagement with local communities.

To assist in creating a platform for the delivery of high speed broadband to families and businesses, particularly where fibre deployments are planned in rural and regional Australia, NBN Co is seeking assistance from local governments to expedite the rollout whilst protecting amenities.

The Telecommunications Act 1997 and the related Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 1997 (LIFD 1997) establishes a broad framework for the installation, operation and maintenance of certain 'low impact' telecommunication facilities.

The legislation includes a number of powers and immunities that make a range of telecommunication facilities exempt from some local planning controls and other laws.

One of the key requirements for these exemptions is that the facilities must not be located in an area of environmental significance. To fall within the exemptions, some facilities are subject to certain design and other specifications and some notification processes also need to be followed.

Not all of the facilities that NBN Co will be installing are currently 'low impact' facilities under LIFD 1997. NBN Co is also seeking the assistance of state and territory governments and local councils to facilitate the rollout in the context of Federal, state or local government requirements.



*A construction manager in Brunswick, Victoria, one of the First Release Sites.*

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## Council checklist

The following checklist provides a guide for local councils as to the information NBN Co and its contractors / agents may need to assist in the NBN planning process.

As demonstrated by the rollout in Tasmania, and the five First Release Sites (FRS) on the mainland, NBN Co is committed to working closely with local government on the design and deployment of the NBN in their area, ensuring a lasting positive legacy for the local community.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Zoning maps and planning controls   | ✓ |
| Identification and location of heritage conservation areas and / or heritage items (both indigenous and non-indigenous)   | ✓ |
| Location of environmentally significant areas e.g. conservation / protected areas, national parks / nature reserves, wetlands, bushland, significant street trees | ✓ |
| Any specific local planning controls, policies or codes that may apply specifically to telecommunication facilities   | ✓ |
| Confirmation of any local exemptions, restrictions or prohibitions for telecommunication facilities   | ✓ |
| Development application requirements (if necessary), including likely timeframes, processes etc.  | ✓ |
| Location of Commonwealth land and education, health or government facilities  | ✓ |
| Location of major development proposals and areas (e.g. greenfield sites), major infrastructure locations or areas that require major upgrades to infrastructure  | ✓ |

Councils may also be keen to work with NBN Co and its contractors / agents to enter agreements to rent facilities that could be used during the rollout, such as depots, warehouses, temporary site offices, shopfront information offices etc. In that case, councils could provide some indication of properties that might be useful for the above purposes.

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## Council collaboration

NBN Co will be working very closely with local government in the communication effort in connection with the NBN.

We see local government as playing a unique and critical role in both informing NBN Co about potential local issues and requirements and assisting in the development and dissemination of community education and publicity.

Below is a list of some of the types of activities in relation to which NBN Co would like to involve various areas in local councils.

| COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER GROUP | ACTIVITY  | COMMENTS   |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Mayor and CEO             | Media opportunities and communication of NBN related information, including direct communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in identifying stakeholders, associations, community and business groups, champions etc.</li> <li>Provide advice on legacy issues</li> <li>Assist in identifying local opportunities for communication channels (events / festivals markets)</li> <li>Assistance with opt-in consent program (where implemented)</li> <li>Briefs to council</li> </ul>   |
| Corporate services        | Planning, data, infrastructure development  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning</li> <li>Development approvals</li> <li>Heritage, environmental, native vegetation</li> <li>Statutory and structure planning</li> <li>Greenfield developments</li> <li>Infrastructure projects</li> <li>Council civil works</li> <li>Forward scheduling of works</li> <li>Road closures and traffic management</li> <li>Notifications</li> <li>GIS Officer</li> <li>Access to council GIS data and overlays</li> <li>Economic development</li> </ul> |

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| COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER GROUP    | ACTIVITY                                   | COMMENTS   |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Corporate services           | Planning, data, infrastructure development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local opportunities (events / festivals markets)</li> <li>Speaking and promotional opportunities</li> <li>Opt-in consent program (where implemented)</li> <li>Databases</li> <li>Rates database (property owners)</li> <li>Stakeholders and business groups contacts</li> <li>Health, education and emergency services contacts</li> </ul>                                |
| Media and communications     | Media and marketing opportunities          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media releases</li> <li>Photo opportunities</li> <li>Information flow (internal council and community)</li> <li>Media channels</li> <li>Legacy issues (previous infrastructure projects)</li> <li>Local media opportunities (events / festivals markets)</li> <li>Opt-in consent program (where implemented)</li> <li>Translation and storyboarding assistance</li> </ul> |
| Library                      | Collateral and venue hire                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storyboards and static displays</li> <li>Community information sessions / briefings</li> </ul>  |
| Community health (aged care) | As above                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translation and storyboarding assistance</li> <li>Effective engagement strategies</li> <li>Storyboards and displays</li> <li>Community information sessions</li> </ul>  |

**Contact**

Phone **1800 881 816**  
 Website **[www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au)**  
 Email **[info@nbnco.com.au](mailto:info@nbnco.com.au)**