

HUNTER HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

An Initiative of RDA Hunter

Hunter High Speed Broadband (HHSBB) is RDA Hunter's new initiative that brings together regional experts in industries including health, education and manufacturing, all levels of government and the business community. It will assist the Hunter leverage the benefits of high speed broadband and help build a stronger digital economy.

Through updates, presentations and case studies by industry specialists, HHSBB will inform and update the region on the high speed broadband infrastructure roll-out and provide strategies for businesses to utilise it for improved performance and growth.

Underpinning the digital economy, high speed broadband is vital for the Hunter's social and economic growth. HHSBB will facilitate ex-

posure to national and international initiatives that will help Hunter business maximise the productivity efficiencies high speed broadband can deliver.

Telstra's and NBN Co's work to improve the Hunter's digital infrastructure is highlighted in this update as well as the innovative programs for schools and industry that RDA Hunter's ME Program is implementing.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen the Hunter's digital economy and will update you periodically. For further information visit www.rdahunter.org.au

Todd Williams

Chief Executive Officer

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITIES

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND ESSENTIAL FOR SMART EDUCATION

An increasing reliance on learning technologies to deliver best practice educational outcomes at the Hunter's smart high schools means that existing bandwidth in many of these schools will struggle to keep pace with teachers' needs.

For example in the 'flipped classroom', where students take a greater responsibility for their own learning, the teacher facilitates an active learning process by guiding students and assessing their learning. 'Flipped classroom' techniques are important as they not only give students the information required for learning but also teach them how to find information.

For the 'flipped classroom' strategy to work well students must have access to high speed broadband. In a classroom employing this technique, up to 30 students may be using device to access online media such as video, mp3, web pages and journals as well as real-time video collaboration and file sharing across the country and even the world.

As RDA Hunter's ME Program continues to develop online content for the Living Toolkit, its intuitive, online learning interface, high speed broadband will be a fundamental requirement for engaging and enthusing students involved in the Program.

Visit www.rdahunter.org.au

BROADBAND FOR BUSINESS

Business owner, Michael Courtney runs his computer services company from his home in Scottsdale. Michael can now use his phone over the NBN, conduct more video calls and use remote tools to stay on-site and minimise the time spent traveling to his clients.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TfJyYTLfUs

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

TELSTRA

Telstra is creating Australia's largest Wi-Fi network as part of a \$100 million-plus strategy to increase connectivity in venues such as cafes, shops, sports grounds and transport hubs – and Newcastle is among the first cities to be part of the national roll-out.

The Telstra Wi-Fi service aims to offer Australians access to two million Wi-Fi hotspots across the nation within five years. Telstra is currently trialing the program in areas including Newcastle, Nelson Bay, Port Stephens and Forster-Tuncurry before it is implemented across other parts of the Hunter and the rest of the country throughout 2015.

The first Wi-Fi trials will be located at payphone sites in the heart of local communities, focusing on where people congregate and spend time – and they are easy to identify with pink domes positioned on the top of Telstra payphones in hotspot areas

Visit www.rdahunter.org.au/news-events/telstra-creating-australias-largest-wi-fi-network

NBNCo

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is essential for Australia's transition to a digital future. Fast broadband has the potential to fuel growth and drive improvements to local economies, businesses and homes, bringing new opportunities to the whole country.

"Recent NBN rollout announcements demonstrate the rollout of the NBN is continuing momentum in the Hunter – and with it comes many economic and social opportunities for local communities." said Tony Gibbs, NBNCo spokesman.

Visit www.nbnco.com.au/sell-nbn-services/rollout-map.html#.VGq8thEiUk