

# Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan

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15 December 2017

The Chief Commissioner  
Greater Sydney Commission  
PO Box 257 Parramatta  
NSW 2124

Dear Commissioner

### **nbn submission to the Greater Sydney Regional Plan**

nbn co limited (**nbn**) thanks the Greater Sydney Commission for the opportunity to make a submission to the Greater Sydney Regional Plan (the plan). **nbn** provides the following for your consideration and would be pleased to expand upon any aspects of the contents as required.

**nbn** supports the need for a metropolitan wide strategy for Sydney's future. This is particularly important in light of the high level of population growth projected, the ever changing nature of Sydney's economy and to reflect the impact advances in technology can have on a city's structure. **nbn** recognises the challenges Sydney faces planning for this growth, in providing housing, infrastructure and services and facilitating jobs growth (particularly knowledge economy jobs). One of the key challenges will be ensuring that supporting infrastructure is in place early, to support new residents and new business.

Broadband is now considered a necessity and a core service that every person in Australia should have access to. The benefits of broadband internet are widely known and are discussed in this submission. Early provision of the **nbn**<sup>™</sup> broadband access network in new developments will help ensure that Sydneysiders can enjoy all the benefits of broadband internet, now and into the future.

### **Roll out of the nbn<sup>™</sup> broadband access network**

**nbn** is a Government Business Enterprise, established to upgrade Australia's existing telecommunications network, as part of a national initiative with the objective of providing access to very fast broadband to all Australians.

This states that **nbn** should deploy a Multi Technology Mix network and the Government expects the network will provide peak wholesale download data rates (and proportionate upload rates) of at least 25Mbps to all premises and at least 50Mbps to 90 per cent of the fixed line footprint as soon as possible. The 2016 **nbn**<sup>™</sup> Corporate Plan sets out a strategy for connecting 8 million premises by 2020.

The roll out of the **nbn**<sup>™</sup> access network is one of Australia's largest infrastructure projects. The scale, scope, speed and complexity of the project is unprecedented and rollout is taking place in the context of a rapidly changing market with a high level of technological innovation.



## **Benefits of high speed broadband internet**

The plan outlines the structure and interventions needed to achieve the vision for Sydney to 2056. This will be important to ensure Sydney's liveability is maintained.

The **nbn**<sup>™</sup> broadband access network is part of the backbone of Australian's broadband network. It is important this essential infrastructure is in place so Sydneysiders can enjoy the benefits.

High speed internet creates the conditions for economic growth and prosperity, enabling structural changes in the economy to take place, particularly in the knowledge economy. Broadband can indirectly contribute to economic growth by driving, innovation, firm efficiency, competition, flexibility in the economy and globalisation. It can contribute to the development of new inventions, new processes, new and improved goods and services, new business models and it can increase competitiveness in the economy. Broadband has become an important part of almost every aspect of the economy, particularly in activities that rely on the provision of data, information and in service sectors.

## **Greater Sydney Regional Plan**

**nbn** supports the direction in the Greater Sydney Regional Plan and suggests minor edits to highlight the impact access to a high speed broadband can have on infrastructure provision and economic productivity. The **nbn**<sup>™</sup> broadband access network can help achieve the Vision to 2056 and also supports the Infrastructure and Collaboration and Productivity chapters in the plan.

### **1. Vision to 2056**

The **nbn**<sup>™</sup> broadband access network supports the plan's Vision for 2056. A high quality broadband network that provides residents and businesses with fast internet connection is key to growing Sydney's knowledge intensive jobs and the innovation economy, which will cement Sydney as a global economic powerhouse. The plan also articulates the greater reliance on knowledge intensive jobs in Sydney's Future.

The plan acknowledges rapid technological advances that will support Sydney's economy and impact the city structure. This is clearly outlined on under "Greater Sydney's Future" on p22.

### **Suggestion (p22)**

*Include reference to the important role broadband and provision of broadband infrastructure plays in supporting rapid technological change and its role in supporting knowledge intensive jobs and tertiary education.*

### **2. Infrastructure and collaboration**

Broadband can be a key enabler to improve infrastructure provision in Sydney. The plan acknowledges that new ways of designing and delivering infrastructure need to be thought of to deliver infrastructure as the infrastructure needs of Sydney become more complex. Broadband internet enables health and education services to be delivered online, it can change patterns of demand and also reduce the need to travel for these services. It also enables more people in diverse industries to work from home. This can reduce the impact on the transport network, which contributes to the realisation of the 30 minute city concept.



**Suggestion (p25)**

*Include reference to broadband as an enabler to deliver infrastructure in more flexible and innovative ways as new technologies emerge for example its role in supporting autonomous vehicles.*

*Include reference to the provision of broadband infrastructure in city planning is essential to ensuring the necessary foundations are in place to support a thriving city, and upgrades can be made as new technologies become available.*

The plan also acknowledges the need to ensure infrastructure is adaptable with new technologies and that major productivity gains can be achieved as technology advances are made.

**Suggestion (p32)**

*Include reference to the important role an established broadband network can play in enabling innovative technologies to meet Sydney's immediate and future infrastructure needs.*

**3. Productivity**

The plan outlines Sydney's economic strengths including the global role it plays in finance, education, tourism and high tech manufacturing. As outlined above, broadband creates the economic conditions that enable these economic sectors to grow and prosper.

The plan acknowledges the geographic challenges with the current city structure of Sydney and aims to rebalance economic growth by creating a metropolis of three cities.

Broadband internet can play an important role in helping to rebalance the city structure by enabling more jobs and services to be accessed online, which can reduce the need to access jobs and services in person. This can have an impact on the reliance of traditional CBDs and influence commuting patterns. This in turn can provide more choice in the location of businesses and influence where people choose to live.

**Suggestion (p68)**

*Include reference to the important role broadband and provision of broadband infrastructure can play in helping to rebalance the city structure by supporting modern ways of working.*



Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the future vision of Greater Sydney. **nbn** would gladly accept any opportunities to be involved in future strategic planning work the NSW Government undertakes. For further clarification on any of the points in the submission, please contact [REDACTED], Policy and Engagement Specialist on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julian Nachmias', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

nbn New Developments

**Julian Nachmias**

**General Manager Demand Deployment**