



**THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP**  
Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Broadband access guaranteed for all Australians**

New landmark legislation came into force today that enshrines in law access to broadband services for all Australians regardless of where they live.

The Morrison Government's new Statutory Infrastructure Provider (SIP) regime underpins the Universal Service Guarantee, meaning there is now a legislated framework for access to broadband as well as voice telephone services and payphones.

Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Paul Fletcher MP, said that new laws reinforce the Government's commitment to providing 21<sup>st</sup> century telecommunications services to all.

"These historic laws mean that all Australians can access high-speed broadband, no matter where they live or work," Minister Fletcher said.

Under the new SIP laws, NBN Co will have a statutory obligation to provide broadband services that are able to achieve peak download and upload speeds of at least 25/5 Megabits per second.

NBN Co must also provide at least 90 per cent of premises on its fixed-line network with peak broadband speeds of 50/10 Megabits per second.

Where NBN Co is not the default network provider – for example, where other network operators have contracts to service new developments – those operators will also be required to meet these requirements.

"Telecommunications has long been recognised as an essential utility and the Government committed to providing access to reliable high speed broadband for all Australians. The legislation commencing today locks that commitment into law," Minister Fletcher said.

"The existing Universal Service Obligation mandates access to voice services only. The new Universal Service Guarantee expands the mandate to give Australians guaranteed access to broadband as well as voice services, while also ensuring current fixed telephone and payphone services are maintained in rural and remote areas."

The Regional Broadband Scheme (RBS), which is part of the same package of reforms, will commence from 1 January 2021 and will provide transparent, sustainable and ongoing funding for NBN Co's loss-making fixed wireless and satellite services.

The RBS provides funding of over \$700 million per annum to upgrade and recover the costs of providing broadband in regional and remote Australia.

“Together, these new laws are designed to ensure access to modern telecommunications services for those living in regional, rural and remote areas, as well as those in metropolitan areas, while promoting competition,” Minister Fletcher said.

More information is available at: [www.communications.gov.au/trp](http://www.communications.gov.au/trp)

**Media contacts:**

Brad Hatch | 0448 162 679 | [Brad.Hatch@communications.gov.au](mailto:Brad.Hatch@communications.gov.au)

Rebecca Papillo | 0439 892 771 | [Rebecca.Papillo@communications.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Papillo@communications.gov.au)