



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

MEDIA RELEASE

30 October 2020

NBN investment to boost disaster recovery in Batemans Bay

NBN Co are investing more than \$460,000 towards a Community Hub in the Batemans Bay region, supporting recovery from last year's bushfire season and preparing the community for the upcoming natural disaster season.

In officially opening the first ever NBN Local Community Hub in Batemans Bay, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP said that face-to-face engagement with NBN Co would help support local residents and businesses recover and realise the benefits that fast broadband can provide.

“Fast, reliable, and resilient connectivity has never been more important to regional Australia and the Batemans Bay Community Hub will provide residents and businesses with a great opportunity to be at the forefront of this revolution,” Minister Fletcher said.

“The Hub will foster local business innovation with NBN Co demonstrating the tailored support and solutions available to communities, with businesses able to try out the latest technology.

“More than 130 Businesses in Batemans Bay are also set to benefit from NBN Co's \$700 million Business Fibre Initiative, providing access to NBN Co's premium grade business fibre services with speeds of up to 1 Gigabit per second. This initiative will give businesses in Batemans Bay access to the same support and wholesale pricing as those businesses located in the centre of Sydney. In some cases, businesses will see price reductions for enterprise broadband by up to 67 per cent.

NBN Co's investment in the Batemans Bay region will stimulate regional jobs and economic growth, offering local businesses improved digital capability, including:

- **Better online customer service experience:** Fast internet will offer regional businesses - who have been hamstrung by slower connections - to be more responsive on websites, forums or social media channels
- **Increased online presence:** These same sites could enable small or regional businesses to grow digitally and increase awareness of their stores online.
- **Ecommerce:** Shops who may not have been able to expand their offering online - due to poor internet connections - will have the option to offer their products or services online.
- **Overseas export:** A new source of profit can also come from overseas markets. The ability for a business to advertise and communicate with people from all over the world can open up export opportunities which can in turn help the Australian economy.

In addition to opening the Batemans Bay Community Hub today, Minister Fletcher will participate in a Bushfire Recovery Roundtable, as part of the Australian Government's commitment to supporting the region as it recovers from the recent bushfires.

The Australian Government has allocated more than \$2 billion to the National Bushfire Recovery Fund. The roundtable is an opportunity for local representatives to discuss the progress of bushfire recovery in the region and how best NBN Co can support the region in its recovery.

The Community Hub is located at 3 Clyde Street in Batemans Bay and is open from 9.30am - 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.

More information is available on NBN Co's website: nbnco.com.au/local

Media contact:

Imre Salusinszky | 0432 535 737 | imre.salusinszky@communications.gov.au