



National Broadband Network Issues to be canvassed with Minister Steven Conroy

World class infrastructure

Through ICT 2030, Ballarat recognises the importance of world class infrastructure (in particular hi-speed broadband) and its potential to enhance competitiveness and to extend the growth of ICT in Ballarat. Representatives of Ballarat ICT will be interested to discuss:

- Possibilities, timeframes, costs and the pros and cons of different deployment approaches - aerial builds, existing conduits, satellite, new conduits, existing providers, etc
- Importance of achieving equality of access (speed and price)
- Ballarat and the broader region's readiness to become a leader in brownfield and greenfield deployments of the NBN

Quality Jobs and R&D

Through ICT 2030, Ballarat seeks to create quality jobs, channel funding and cooperation, and enhance R&D capability. Representatives of Ballarat ICT will be interested to discuss:

- Opportunities to be proactive in responding to the significant skills gap that may otherwise impede the rollout timeframe to NBN benefit realisation period
- Potential establishment of a National NBN Technician Training Centre capable of supporting the NBN rollout Australia wide. Ballarat has a successful track record in technical training and could mobilise to facilitate training and accreditation in areas including cabling communications, rollout, maintenance etc.
- Project management is another area of potential opportunity.

Working together

Through ICT 2030, Ballarat has identified the opportunity to produce competitive advantages through widespread adoption of ICT across Ballarat's major industry sectors. Representatives of Ballarat ICT will be interested in discussing:

- Extending niche areas of focus and building ‘test bed’ activities in areas such as health, emergency services and security
- The NBN will reduce current challenges associated with meeting anywhere, anytime, access to large datasets (for example health records).
- Ballarat is ideally suited location for leading new technology adoption in regional Australia

Background

ICT 2030 provides the framework for Ballarat to become acknowledged internationally for the strength and innovativeness of its ICT industry.

The seven aims of the 2030 Strategy:

1. Establish Ballarat as a globally competitive ICT centre.
2. Provide an ICT and associated infrastructure – especially broadband – that will achieve productivity gains, innovation and differentiation of products and services.
3. Increase the competitiveness of the local economy by developing appropriate linkages between the ICT cluster and other industries.
4. Facilitate the growth of existing ICT businesses and support the start-up of new ICT businesses.
5. Actively attract new ICT and support businesses that will help develop and grow the Ballarat ICT industry and cluster.
6. Attract and retain ICT talent in Ballarat and facilitate funding and collaboration to enhance research capability.
7. Acknowledge the diversity in the Ballarat community and provide opportunities for citizens from all backgrounds to work, develop and participate in the digital community.

For further information visit www.ballaratict.com.au