![NBN Co logo - Bringing broadband to life]

Media release

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Riverina farmers start harvesting broadband benefits

More than 5,300 local homes and businesses now able to connect to the NBN

A Euberta fish farmer is amongst the first in the region to experience the benefits of fast broadband following the official 'switch on' of the National Broadband Network (NBN) in the Riverina today. NBN Co has also announced more than 5,300 farms, homes and businesses across 22 Riverina communities are now able to connect to the NBN.

NBN Co spokesperson, Joe Dennis said:
"The rollout of the NBN is gaining momentum across country NSW, providing homes and businesses with access to internet speeds and bandwidth that many in the big cities take for granted.

"The NBN also helps create many economic and social opportunities for regional communities. It can help residents access e-health services, distance education and entertainment on demand, whilst businesses have the ability to increase productivity, reduce costs and access new markets."

Noel Penfold, Murray Darling Fisheries said:
"Farmers can no longer operate efficiently and competitively using phone signals alone for their connectivity – we need access to fast broadband to grow our businesses.

"My Telstra NBN connection is now an essential service, like electricity and water. It's critical to the general operations of my farm and will help me access interstate and international markets."

NSW Farmers Vice President Derek Schoen said:
"Digital technology is central to the future of agriculture and farmers are embracing it as fast as they can. With fast broadband, local farmers can potentially increase crop yields through better targeting of water and fertilisers as well as livestock production through improved animal management and superior pasture utilisation. Smart farming also enables better environmental outcomes by enabling tighter control of agrichemical, energy and other farm inputs."

City of Wagga Mayor, Councillor Rod Kendall said:
"The NBN will help local producers maximise the agricultural potential of the region. With access to fast broadband, farmers are now better able to realise the productivity and efficiency benefits that come from remote monitoring and management of farm operations."

NBN Co is also building additional facilities to service 22 more Riverina communities, which will cover a further 6,400 homes and businesses in the coming months.

Residents of the Riverina can check if their home or business is in an NBN coverage area at nbnco.com.au/maps.

Riverina communities where NBN services are now available

Region	Communities
Riverina	Gumly Gumly, Oura, Tarcutta, Junee (surrounds), Young (surrounds), Mangoplah, The Rock, West Wyalong (surrounds), Collingullie, Springdale, Ariah Park, Bribbaree, Temora (surrounds), Wagga Wagga (surrounds), Ungarie, Mt Weedalion, Rannock, Ganmain, Marrar, Coolamon (surrounds), Narrandera (surrounds), Ardlethan

Riverina communities where NBN services are under construction

Region	Communities
Riverina	Bomen (surrounds), Ladysmith, Wallacetown, Yanco, Leeton (surrounds), Bilbul, Tharbogang, Yoogali, Hanwood, Stanbridge, Yenda (surrounds), Whitton, Young (surrounds), Monteagle, Murringo, Tumbarumba (surrounds), Khancoban, Barellan, Lake Wyangan, Coleambally, Currawarna, Uranquinty

Media enquiries
NBN Co Media Hotline
P: 02 9927 4200
E: media@nbnco.com.au

Grant Thomas
M: 0417 554 787
E: grant.thomas@nbnco.com.au

Notes to editors
- Connect in just three easy steps to start enjoying the benefits of high speed broadband:

  Step 1: Order a service
  o   Contact your preferred telephone company or internet service provider to order a service over the NBN.

  Step 2: Installation
  o   Your service provider will arrange an appointment for NBN Co to test your premises and, if successful, install an outdoor antenna on your roof and a connection box inside your home at the same time – both are currently free of charge for a standard installation.

  Step 3: Connect to the NBN
  o   Once installed, within 24 hours residents should be able to connect their service provider's modem to the internal NBN Connection Box to begin experiencing the many benefits of fast broadband. For further details on connecting to the NBN fixed wireless network, visit: www.nbnco.com.au/fixed-wireless

- NBN Co's fixed wireless facilities are designed to service less densely populated communities across Australia such as small towns and villages and the outer surrounds of major townships.
- NBN Co's fixed wireless service offers wholesale download speeds of up to 25 megabits per second and wholesale upload speeds of up to five megabits per second to telephone and internet service providers.
- End user experience, including the speeds actually achieved over the NBN, depends on some factors outside NBN Co's control like equipment quality, software, broadband plans and how the end user's service provider designs its network.
- Fixed wireless services are delivered by radio communications via antennas that transmit a signal direct to a small outdoor antenna on your home or business.
- Before the network equipment is installed a service validation test will be carried out. Those premises which are unable to be served by fixed wireless may be able to receive NBN Co's long term satellite service when it becomes available. Visit www.nbnco.com.au/satellite for more information.
- In fixed wireless areas copper phone lines will remain in place to provide a landline telephone service, if the end user chooses to use it.
- A standard installation of NBN equipment is currently free of charge. Residents should ask their preferred service provider if they have any other fees.
- Premises activated as reported in the NBN Rollout information weekly summary – www.nbnco.com.au/weeklyprogressreport