



## The Hon Paul Fletcher MP

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts

### Senator Hollie Hughes

Liberal Patron Senator for the Hunter Region

# Media Release

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**2,347 Businesses in the Paterson** electorate will benefit from cheaper and faster broadband with NBN Co today announcing the establishment of a Business Fibre Zone at Nelson Bay.

**Liberal Patron Senator for the Hunter Region, Hollie Hughes**, said the new Zones will allow local businesses to access fibre with speeds of up to 1 Gigabit per second, enabling a range of new business opportunities that previously weren't possible.

"This has the potential to revitalise and reshape our region, from the services locals are able to access, and with no upfront build costs and discounts of up to 60% on NBN Co's current wholesale plans, I am keen to see local businesses take advantage of these zones."

**Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP**, said the 44 new Zones around Australia would help thousands of businesses participate in the digital economy on an equal footing, and bring the total number of Business Fibre Zones to 284.

"As we manage and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, investment in local business communications infrastructure will ensure that businesses can recover quickly, while taking advantage of domestic and international markets," Minister Fletcher said.

This extension to NBN Co's Business Fibre Zone initiative builds on the \$700 million package announced last year to transform the accessibility and affordability of business-grade fibre and allow small to medium businesses to embrace opportunities for growth.

Today's announcement will support an additional **60,000 eligible businesses** across Australia, taking the total number of businesses within a Business Fibre Zone to 850,000, of which nearly 300,000 businesses are in **regional Australia**.

NBN's Enterprise Ethernet, NBN Co's fastest symmetrical wholesale product, offers these businesses plans of up to 1 Gigabit per second at the same price as CBD areas.

The announcement comes at the same time as research by Frontier Economics shows NBN Co's business fibre investments will contribute up to \$7.2 billion annually to the economy by 2024. The research also forecasts productivity benefits for businesses of up to 12%, with regional areas particularly set to benefit and evidence of increased retail competition which is good for businesses, visit: <https://www.communications.gov.au/documents/economic-impact-new-nbn-investments-business-report-frontier-economics>.

For more information about the NBN Business Fibre Zones initiative, including the new pricing options, visit:

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/about-nbn-co/corporate-plan/business-fibre-initiative>.

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