



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release – April 28, 2010

Tasmanian Liberal MPs must make a stand on NBN

Tasmania's Liberal MPs must make a stand to head-off Tony Abbott's latest plan to axe the National Broadband Network and threaten hundreds of jobs in the North-West says Federal MP for Braddon Sid Sidebottom MP.

Mr Sidebottom said the roll-out was about to begin in the region's far North-West at Smithton and would provide a significant economic boost at a time when it was desperately needed in our region.

"I would call on Liberal Senators Colbeck and Parry and their State colleagues to defend the NBN or explain to people in this region why they would put at risk their chance to become part of the Twenty-First Century," Mr Sidebottom said.

"People in Smithton are eagerly awaiting their chance to join the world of superfast broadband.

"For too long Circular Head has been at the back end of technological advances, but the NBN will put the area at the forefront.

"Tony Abbott's latest move will cause all sorts of confusion among those who are waiting eagerly to be part of the NBN – both from an employment perspective and as consumers.

"Other parts of the North-West and around Tasmania are also part of the roll-out plan for the NBN and it can only be good for the region."

Mr Sidebottom said the roll-out of the NBN had real potential to overcome some of the impacts of major industrial closures across the region as it spread the network further along the coast.

"These are the jobs of the Twenty-First Century and could see Tasmania become a hub for many new industries – but this could all be at risk if Mr Abbott is allowed to pursue his negative agenda."

He said it was also a threat to the future of Australia's ability to compete economically.

"Without this crucial infrastructure Australian companies won't be able to compete with those around the region, and around the world."

Mr Sidebottom said he was also concerned for the future of school construction under Building the Education Revolution, which Mr Abbott has also threatened to roll back.

"Senators Colbeck and Parry must guarantee the future of these projects, otherwise name the schools that will be affected," he said.

Sid is available for interview regarding the future of the NBN under Tony Abbott if required.

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