



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

### **MEDIA RELEASE – 25.7.09**

#### **Smithton leads the way onto superfast broadband highway**

SMITHTON will lead the nation into a high technology future as the starting point for Australia's superfast broadband network.

Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom said that today's announcement recognised the importance of regional communities like Circular Head and the advantages that the superfast National Broadband Network could bring.

"I can't think of a better place to kick off a revolution, because that is what it is, a revolution in communications possibilities for small business, hospitals and health and schools, in particular," Mr Sidebottom said.

"The sky is the limit and the world our oyster – particularly in a place like Smithton that produces some of Australia's best oysters.

"Once established in Smithton the superfast broadband network will be expanded along the Coast and across Tasmania."

Mr Sidebottom said that Tasmania had the lowest broadband uptake of any state in Australia and the North-West region mirrored this disappointing trend.

"I want to see this new superfast network turn that around," he said.

"This clearly demonstrates our commitment to connecting the most regional parts of Australia first – wherever technically possible. They have as much right as the rest of the world to connect and be connected.

"I have been in close contact with Federal Communications Minister Stephen Conroy on a range of communications issues since the Rudd Government came into office.

"I was very pleased to see that Smithton had been chosen as the kick-off point in Australia."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL LUKE SAYER ON 0458 311 355**