



# Parliament of Australia

House of Representatives

**Lisa Chesters MP**  
Federal Member for Bendigo

Our ref: 3382KS

4 February 2016

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield  
Minister for Communications  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

## **Re: National Broadband Network rollout in the Bendigo electorate**

This week in 2015 the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal overturned planning approval for an NBN tower on Mt Camel.

This decision meant NBN towers already built in Eppalock, Ladys Pass, Goornong and Huntly North were unable to be turned on as scheduled.

A year later, and the residents impacted by this delay are still waiting for the NBN.

The majority of households in this area currently have little to no internet access, with residents contacting me daily to voice their disappointment and frustration.

Whilst I have received advice from your Department and NBN Co that an alternative solution is being worked on, it is clear a reconfiguration of the network to get these towers turned on is simply not a priority.

This issue highlights the inadequacies of the current NBN rollout plan.

The Bendigo electorate is in a telecommunications crisis. In my electorate I am watching a big gap develop between those with internet access and those without. As more of our everyday lives moves online, a lack of reliable and affordable internet access is creating disadvantage and inequity.

There is a street in Woodend where four different internet technologies (satellite, ADSL 1, ADSL 2 and mobile broadband) are struggling to provide connectivity. For some residents on this street however, no form of internet connection is available.

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The NBN rollout needs to happen faster and the areas where internet access is slow, unreliable or non-existent need to be better targeted.

I am available to discuss my concerns with the NBN rollout in the Bendigo electorate at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Chesters', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Chesters MP  
**Federal Member for Bendigo**