
To: Project Control Group and Key Contacts

Date: 27 July 2010

Main topic: Central Highlands ICT Study

Local Government actions

Survey invitations – survey closes 30 July 2010

- On Friday 30 July 2010 the ICT Survey will close for reporting purposes, however it will continue to record responses indefinitely. If your LGA would like to increase its responses for reporting in the Central Highlands ICT Study, this week will be the last chance. To ensure communities are represented in the study, LGAs could send a reminder email to their mailing lists or contact communities and businesses who have indicated that improved ICT services are important to them.

Case Studies

- Encourage local businesses and regional entities that have not been suggested for a case study to contribute their story to the regional profile of ICT usage by submitting an online or paper-based case study. Online and Word versions of the case study template are available at www.cecc.com.au/ch_ict_study.

POSTPONED – Horsham NBN events

- With the Federal election being called for 21 August 2010, the Horsham NBN events to be held in August have had to be postponed. This is due to the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy being in caretaker mode, NBN Co being unable to attend, and the State Government being unable to support the policies of one party over another. Therefore, we have postponed the two events until **September** 2010 and their content will depend on the outcome of the election:

Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Government NBN forum

What: Forum for LGA representatives

When: Wednesday 8 September 2010

Time: 9.00am – 12.00pm

Place: Banksia Room, Grains Innovation Park, 110 Natimuk Road, Horsham

RSVP: Register by going to www.cecc.com.au/wsm_nbn_forum

Horsham broadband community information session

What: Information session for local businesses and residents

When: Tuesday 7 September 2010

Time: 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Place: Yellow Gum Room, Grains Innovation Park, 110 Natimuk Road, Horsham

RSVP: Register by going to www.cecc.com.au/broadband_information_session

Useful information

- On 24 May 2010 CeBIT held an NBN Conference featuring presenters such as Mike Quigley, CEO, NBN Co Limited. A selection of presentations from the conference are now available to be downloaded from www.cebit.com.au/2010/conferences/nbn/speakers

Project team activities

Project website

- The project website has been updated to include online project updates (see www.cecc.com.au/cb_pages/ch_ict_pu_home.php) and a useful websites section (http://www.cecc.com.au/cb_pages/ict_useful_information.php)

ICT survey

- The ICT Survey will be closed for reporting purposes on Friday 30 July 2010, however it will continue to record responses indefinitely. If your LGA would like to increase its responses, this week will be your last chance. See www.cecc.com.au/ch_ict_survey
- Dynamic maps of the survey responses will be made available on Monday 2 August 2010 and will automatically update to aggregate newer responses. See www.cecc.com.au/ch_ict_study from Monday 2 August 2010

- Survey responses for the Central Highlands region as at 26 July 2010 are 410:

LGA	Online responses	Hard-copy responses
Ararat Rural City	72	0
Central Goldfields Shire	1	0
City of Ballarat	11	1
Golden Plains Shire	10	0
Hepburn Shire	22	0
Moorabool Shire	237	2
Northern Grampians Shire	2	0
Pyrenees Shire	51	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>406</i>	<i>4</i>

**Please note: the survey responses from the Moorabool Shire were taken from the Moorabool Shire ICT Study survey responses*

- Combined survey responses for the Central Highlands and Wimmera Southern Mallee regions as at 26 July 2010 are 636
- In the last two weeks, survey responses for the Central Highlands region have increased by 120, a significant increase which was assisted by Ararat Rural City's increase of 64 responses last week
- Example of survey responses from the Central Highlands and Wimmera Southern Mallee regions as at 26 July 2010 (excluding Moorabool Shire responses)

- o *Quality of mobile phone coverage*

Excellent	2.97%
Very good	10.89%
Good	19.80%
Fair	26.73%
Poor	37.62%
Unsure	1.49%
No answer	0.50%

- o *Current internet services*

	Speed	Reliability	Cost
Excellent	6.19%	8.91%	3.47%
Very good	17.82%	29.21%	13.37%
Average	43.07%	38.37%	39.85%
Poor	18.56%	12.87%	22.52%
Very poor	9.90%	4.46%	11.14%
No answer	2.23%	3.96%	7.43%
Non completed or not displayed	2.23%	2.23%	2.23%

- o *The most important issues about the internet*

	Better and faster	Reducing the cost of access
Strongly agree	75.00%	68.07%
Agree	16.83%	18.56%
Neither agree nor disagree	3.22%	8.17%
Disagree	0.50%	1.24%
Strongly disagree	1.24%	0.74%
No answer	3.22%	3.22%

Would you use the internet more...

If it was faster	76.73%
If it was cheaper	64.36%
If digital television and telephone were integrated	24.01%
If I knew more about how to use things	13.61%
I wouldn't. It's fine as it is now	9.41%

Case study template

- Online case study template launched. See www.cecc.com.au/ict_case_study
- Word version of the case study template launched. See www.cecc.com.au/ch_ict_study
- Telephone interviews conducted:
 - Bannockburn Chamber of Commerce
 - Bannockburn Primary School
 - Central Highlands Agribusiness Forum
 - Creswick Post Office
 - Ramirez Farming
 - Virtually Yours
 - Cave Hill Creek

Stakeholder consultation

- Met with Jeff Pulford, Acting CEO, City of Ballarat – 21 July 2010
- Met with Catherine King MP – 12 July 2010

Communications

- ABC Ballarat radio interview – 13 July 2010 – NBN Co second release site announcement for Bacchus Marsh and the ICT Studies

Event participation

- Collaborative Internet Innovation Fund (cIIF) projects collaborative workshop – 22 July 2010 – a workshop for cIIF Round 1 projects, with presentations including:
 - 'A Broadband Enabled Society'
Dr Kate Cornick
Institute for a Broadband-Enabled Society
 - 'Broadband and End User Experiences'
Professor Trevor Barr
Swinburne University
- Presenting at the Horsham broadband community information session – rescheduled to 7 September 2010 due to the calling of the federal election
- Presenting at the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Government NBN forum – rescheduled to 8 September 2010 due to the calling of the federal election

Contract

- Awaiting formal contract documentation – last update provided by Justine Linley 14 July 2010

In progress

- Mapping telecommunications infrastructure
- Mapping ICT survey responses
- Scheduling and conducting case study interviews
- Conducting desktop research
- Documenting study findings

Next update

- The next fortnightly update is scheduled for distribution on 9 August 2010

Further information

- Contact Helen Thompson via email h.thompson@ballarat.edu.au or telephone 5327 9418