

Page MP, Janelle Saffin said today that local towns and cities in Page were set to join the digital revolution, with internet speeds up to 100 times faster than they are now.

Ms Saffin said local cities and towns set to be connected to the optical fibre network include **Alstonville, Ballina, Casino, Evans Head, Grafton, Iluka, Kyogle, Lismore, Woodburn, Wooloweyah, Woombah and Yamba.**

The Gillard Labor Government today released for the first time maps outlining the path for the new network to stretch across Australia under the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The maps:

- show that every house, school and business in Australia will have access to high speed broadband under the NBN
- confirm optical fibre will be extended to 93 per cent of homes and businesses in more than 1,000 cities and towns by the end of the roll-out
- show how communities will be served by next generation wireless and satellite technologies under the NBN

“The NBN will offer speeds of 100 megabits per second – 100 times faster than many people experience today.

“And NBN Co will also deliver next generation wireless and satellite services with speeds of 12 megabits per second to local centres including Coutts Crossing, Lawrence, Urbenville and Woodenbong. This would provide average data rates more than 20 times higher than most users experience today.

“Today’s release of the maps follows the news earlier this month that Coffs Harbour would be one of the next roll out sites for the NBN and the nerve centre for the roll out to the North Coast corridor.

“I led the lobbying in support of the local submission by Southern Cross University and 14 local councils for the North Coast to be a priority for the NBN roll out because communities across our region are ready and willing to take advantage of high speed broadband.

“Local families, businesses and schools will enjoy the benefits of faster, modern technology – sharing the same advantages as the cities,” Ms Saffin said.

“It will make regional economies more competitive, ensure our students have the best quality education and put an end to download delays at home.

“But Tony Abbott would cut the connection, end the roll-out of the National Broadband Network and send our communities backwards.

“He is a risk to our regional economy and to quality education in the area,” Ms Saffin said.

Details of the NBN mapping is available at: <http://www.alp.org.au/agenda/nbn/>