

MEDIA RELEASE



ECCI KAL MINER COLUMN

We were very excited to hear that Esperance has been included in the latest rollout of the National Broadband Network.

We've been eagerly awaiting this announcement, which has finally come after years of lobbying both this and the previous federal governments. Esperance was initially meant to be included in the mid-2014 fibre rollout, announced by the previous Labor Government, however were taken off the list after the 2013 change in government.

Our isolation raises issues in the health, medical and education services, in employee attraction and in business investment and attraction. The NBN has the opportunity to have a significant positive impact on the Esperance community, and will allow our local businesses to compete, grow and develop on the international stage.

Esperance is more than ready to receive the NBN, having worked with Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance to develop a Digital Futures Action Plan. This plan will aid Esperance in maximising the opportunities the NBN can offer.

NBN Co has said construction will start between now and September 2016, and while that feels like it's a long way away, we're pleased to finally be on the list to receive the NBN.

This rollout also included Hopetoun, and we hope to hear good news soon about Ravensthorpe and the wider Goldfields being included in the next rollout.