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## **Rural Australia is calling out for nation building infrastructure**

The NSW Farmers' Association supports the nation building development of the current National Broadband Network (NBN).

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the Association policy developed over a number of years has consistently called for quality, affordable and equitable telecommunications which the NBN is proposing to deliver.

"Under the current market based approach to telecommunications, rural residents are suffering a lower level of service and a higher price," Mr Armstrong said.

"The development of any broadband network needs to provide the opportunity for rural customers to receive the same level of service at equitable prices," Mr Armstrong said.

The proposed NBN will provide all Australians with minimum internet speeds of 12 Megabits per second (Mbps) with universal wholesale pricing across all platforms – wireless, fibre and satellite.

Fibre provided to 93 percent of residents will enable speeds up to 100 Mbps available at higher prices. The remaining 7 percent will be afforded new fixed wireless and upgraded satellite technologies.

"The NBN offers the same 12 Mbps wholesale price for the same speed whether you are in Mosman or the Monaro, Bondi or Bourke, Cronulla or Cobar. The question remains how regional customers will ever get the fastest speeds?

"Under the Coalition's policy there is uncertainty on the delivery of service or price and it will rely on multi combination private enterprise providers with 3 percent serviced by satellites with no guarantee of speeds," Mr Armstrong said.

Whilst, both proposals still have the potential to disadvantage rural consumers, the proposed NBN provides a standard certainty of service and price.

"Rural residents and rural businesses must not be left behind when it comes to this type of infrastructure, to ensure they can compete on equal footing when it comes to high speed communication technology," Mr Armstrong said.

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