



# NEWS

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## Broadband commitment firms guarantee

The NSW Farmers' Association says the Federal Government commitment to continue funding the Australian Broadband Guarantee program is a great win for regional NSW.

NSW Farmers' Association Rural Affairs Committee Chair Alan Brown says the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) aims to ensure affordable metro-comparable broadband internet services are available to all Australians.

"The Association congratulates the Federal Government on this initial pledge to ensure that all Australians have access to the broadband internet services that are so vital to businesses and communities," Mr Brown said.

The Australian Broadband Guarantee offers financial assistance (in the form of incentive payments) to registered internet service providers to supply metro-comparable services to residential and small business premises where such access is otherwise not available.

"Recently, the Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Hon. Stephen Conroy briefed the Association's Executive Council on a range of telecommunication issues and gave a verbal assurance that rural Australians would continue to have access to metro-comparable internet services. The announcement to continue funding the ABG will go a long way to ensuring this," Mr Brown said.

"The Association looks forward to revised guidelines for metro-comparable internet in the future, ensuring that all Australians continue to benefit from the Federal Government's drive to put Australia at the forefront of broadband internet technologies," he said.

"Broadband internet services are an essential resource for many Members. Ensuring that our Members have access to fast, affordable and reliable internet services is a priority of the Association," Mr Brown concluded.

The NSW Farmers' Association has worked to ensure the ABG and previous programs such as HiBis have been available to regional people that would otherwise find Broadband internet unaffordable.

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