



Victorian Local Governance Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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Take politics out of broadband debate, and deliver speedy results

A peak body representing local governments and communities, the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) has called on all federal major political parties to commit to delivering significantly higher internet download speeds of around 100 Mps (megabits-per-second) or more, regardless of who wins the upcoming Federal Election.

“It is true that the science is complex, and ‘tech-heads’ may be the main group who really grasp the detail. It is also true that much of the debate in the last few days has a worrying focus on a fairly narrow view of what might be ‘affordable’”, VLGA President Cr Heinz Kreutz said.

“Communities and local governments around the country have been advocating for a generational investment in significantly higher internet speeds. This is because our members tell us that this is the foundation upon which future productivity, improved planning, decentralised business and other aspects of community life in suburbs and towns, can be built.

“While most major political parties and local governments support sustainable growth in regional centres, this growth will be undermined if the political debate about internet speed centres only on a narrow view of what is ‘affordable’.

“There are a few key groups in regional and rural Australia who are looking for stronger leadership on this topic including small businesses, local governments, not-for-profit community organisations, and many young people who are forced to pursue work and education away from the place they call home.

“It’s about time we measured the broad range of benefits that will accrue from higher internet speeds, including social and environmental benefits not just economic factors.

“The price tag will be high and this is of necessity. Our members tell us we simply can’t afford an ‘inadequate’ option if we are to see the broad benefits flow to nearly all communities, including rural and regional ones”, Cr Kreutz concluded.

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