

## **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK – PUBLIC HEARING – BRISBANE**

**Jim Straker – TOWERLESS NBN FOR MALENY & HINTERLANDS**

### *Four years ago*

**NBN came to Maleny area nearly four years ago. It has been a long drawn out period of upset through many parts of the region – it will possibly continue as such for some time yet also...**

### *Need a complete picture*

**There has never been a complete picture presented to the community of NBN's plans or proposals for the region. Each location has generally been presented in isolation – maybe a deliberate drip feed to divide and conquer. At the various public displays there has been limited opportunity for locally affected areas to be heard as a group. Information shown at some of the displays has been incorrect. Staff at the displays have not been adequately briefed about the local areas. No plan has been available for the extent of the fixed fibre services within Maleny town area.**

**Confusing names have been used – Balmoral Ridge for the Burgess Av site. It has been indicated on submitted plans that there are still more proposals to come..**

### *Is wireless the best for everywhere here?*

**It is well understood that a 'wireless' system (microwave tower) is very applicable for remote and relatively open flat country. To attempt to use it in hilly bush topography does not make a lot of sense.**

### *Weather issues*

**Users of the VAST satellite TV system and digital TV from Brisbane know the disruptions caused by local storms. This has been glibly passed over at NBN presentations.**

### *Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) has Planning Scheme*

**NBN appeared to push its own agenda with little real consideration of the Sunshine Coast Council's comprehensive Planning Scheme – it followed the lines that the planning scheme should bend to meet the NBN requirements despite the wishes of local people to have proposals that met the planning scheme.**

Despite the wording in many of the Development Submissions, the location ‘chosen’ and proposed by NBN was often the only one where an agreement could be reached with an unsuspecting but willing landowner. The landowners do not appear to have been fully briefed about the ramifications of having a tower on their land.

NBN should have considered more carefully that this is a tourist area and an area of high visual amenity when deciding that every facility had to be a ‘microwave tower’. The large number of objections being received about many sites indicate clearly the local sentiment.

The scheme can be flexible – NBN has changed from a tower to fibre in part of Stanley River Road area – much to the delight of the local residents and probably the local wildlife..

#### *Many fibres exist*

Many fibre cables exist but the proposals do not appear to be making any use of them.

#### ***TOWERLESS NBN FOR MALENY & HINTERLANDS***

The TOWERLESS NBN FOR MALENY & HINTERLANDS group was formed to provide assistance to local people with respect to their considerations about a tower near to them. This has covered the processes within the SCC Planning Scheme.

It also provides information from worldwide research covering all considerations about radiation from microwave towers and other sources. This large set of data is not provided by the NBN’s restricted information delivery to future users of the system. Using both sets of information, people are thus able to make a more informed consideration about the proposals which may be near to them or in the region.

#### *Future fate of NBN Co*

The future splitting of NBN Co into several companies and their sale still is probable. This should be clearly defined.

#### *Management of data records*

The Government has provided little information about the short and long term management of data that must be retained under legislation.

### *Desired outcomes*

**The following outcomes are desired:**

- 1. NBN should publish and promote a full picture of their proposals for the Maleny and Hinterlands segment of the SCC region. This should be released at a series of public meetings for the people to gain this valuable story about their future.**
- 2. NBN should realistically review many of its plans for the region and convert them to a fibre cable process rather than using microwave towers.**
- 3. NBN should acknowledge that there are many scientists and others who have a different opinion about possible harm to people, animals, birds and plants from EMR. Reasonable references should also be listed.**
- 4. NBN should be prepared to indemnify tower site land owners from any possible future litigation if it is proven that harm is being done from the microwave towers.**
- 5. The Government and NBN should publicly show what the long term plans are for NBN after the completed roll-out in 2020 or whenever it happens.**

**Jim Straker**

Zero Waste