

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM  
SUBMISSION FOR NARRABRI

8/9/2019

**[REDACTED] (CHAIR LOWER NAMOI COTTON GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION)**

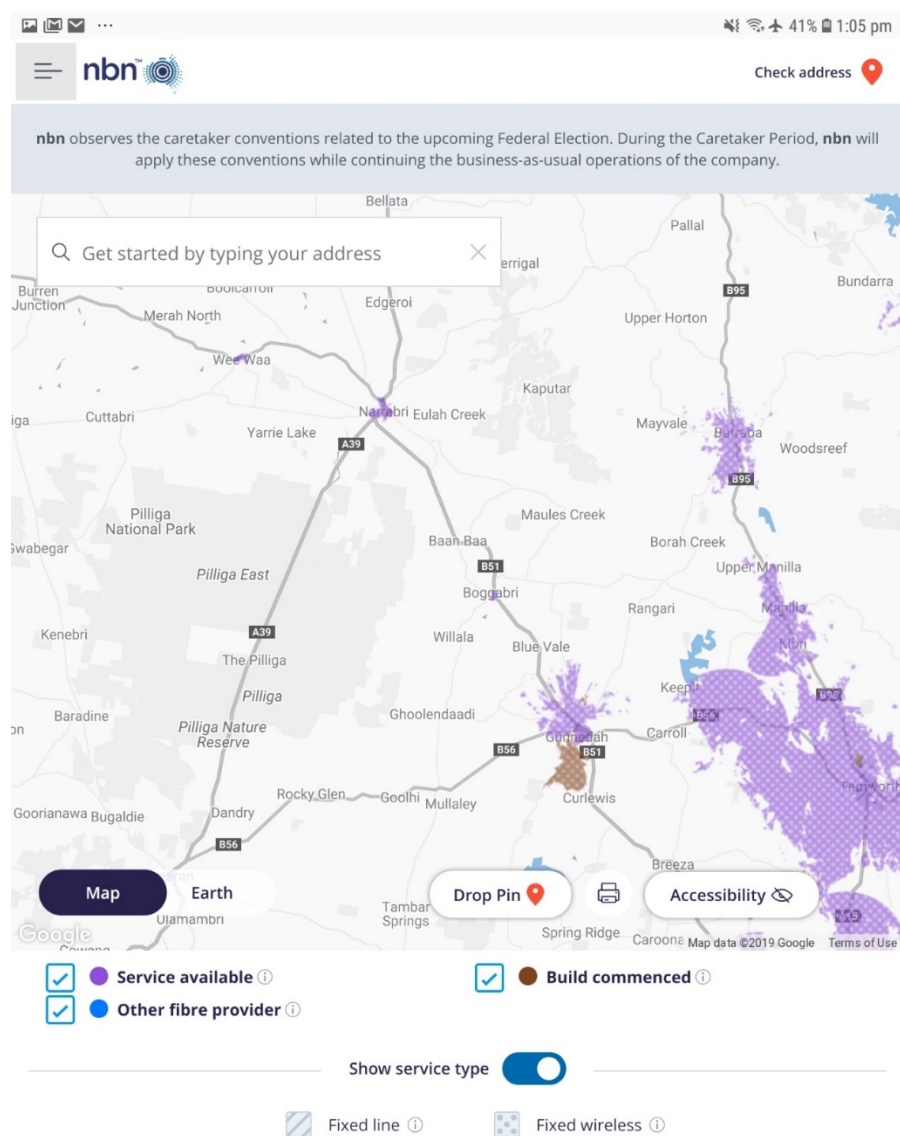
## 1. Narrabri has not received equitable access to the NBN.

Narrabri is the centre of the one of the most productive agricultural shires in Australia and also has a significant mining industry and may in the near future become the largest gas producing region in NSW.

While Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri (main residential towns) have had access to the NBN provided within the towns via fibre to the node, surrounding areas that include semi rural residential and small business have been told that satellite is the only option for access to the NBN. Around the town of Narrabri alone there are at least 400 homes and business that have access to an ADSL connection but will not receive the NBN via fibre. Most other towns of a similar size to Narrabri had a ring of fixed wireless installed by NBNCO to service homes and business.

This is totally unfair and puts Narrabri at a distinct disadvantage compared to towns like Gunnedah and Quirindi. See below.

NBN footprint Gunnedah vs Narrabri. Similar sized towns.



The proposal is to build a ring of fixed wireless around the town of Narrabri the same as Gunnedah

## **2. Is it a priority communication project**

Consultation with local government and business agrees that this proposal is a priority for the local area.

## **3. Other trusted sources**

The LNCGA and local chamber of commerce believe NBN access outside the town boundaries is poor.

## **4. Other options that could be provided by commercial telcos**

An alternative to NBN fixed wireless would be to encourage Optus to bring forward 5G access to Narrabri. Optus currently provide cost effective 4G home broadband plans – eg \$80 to \$85 per month for 500 gb but capacity is insufficient on 4G. Telstra would be less preferred because it doesn't provide cost effective wireless home broadband plans.

## **5. Other comments regarding co-funding**

Tax payers outside Narrabri town have received no value from the NBN and have effectively subsidised the NBN for other consumers. I don't think we should have to pay twice.

## **6. What type of projects should be considered for funding through the Regional Connectivity Program?**

Where there has been clear market failure to provide fair and equitable access to the NBN. Narrabri shire has clearly been failed by NBNCo.

## **7. Are there any comments that you wish to make in relation to the proposal that All funded solutions provide Retail services for a minimum of 10 years after the asset has become operational.**

A 10 year commitment seems fair

## **8. Are there any comments in relation to the proposed eligible and ineligible areas.**

The areas identified surrounding Narrabri only have access to the NBN via the Sky Muster service. NBNCo will not be providing other access to homes and businesses outside the town.

## **9. Are there any comments that you wish to make in relation to the proposed eligible and ineligible expenditure.**

I am not aware of any planned commercial expenditure to improve broadband access in Narrabri shire outside the town limits.

**10. Are there particular circumstances where it may be appropriate for the Commonwealth to make some contribution to ongoing operating expenses?**

This will not be necessary.

Should you require more information or wish to discuss this proposal please feel free to contact me.

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