**Call for Expressions of Interest**

**Wide Bay Burnett Telecommunications Connectivity Study**

**Scope**

The previous “*WBBROC Independent Broadband Testing Report*” was finalised on 10 February 2014 and updated in 2017 after 2 rounds of Telecommunications Blackspot funding from the Commonwealth Government.

Current Study Requirements:

* The outcomes of the study require evidence-based information to assist with advocacy for WBBROC and all WBB Councils
* Identify existing blackspots for each LGA in the Wide Bay Burnett, particularly on major transport routes, more remote holiday destinations, and potential disaster-prone hotspots
* Test the network to identify where network upgrades are required
* Identify priority locations to consider for future advocacy (ideally, this would include priorities for each LGA)
* Provide recommendations on the best methods for partnering with telecommunications carriers to see priorities delivered
* Provide suggestions on satellite pricing advocacy, e.g. such as the new Skymaster business package
* Investigate potential new technologies to improve digital access for the WBB
* Provide recommendations on how to develop maximum benefit from the QCN fibre network, e.g. port to pit as per Bundaberg
* Provide recommendations on any further role that Councils could play in supporting high-speed internet and data services in the region.

To work in with the telecommunications directions that governments are currently supporting (e.g. Regional Connectivity Program):

* Recommendations for potential telecommunications infrastructure projects that are outside the NBN fixed line footprint and would provide clear economic benefits
* Recommendations for potential enterprise-grade local broadband networks that support local agribusinesses and industry clusters
* Recommendations for COVID recovery telecommunications proposals (such as those that the Queensland Government is currently providing).

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