

## A BETTER DEAL FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Regional Australia will receive better services, infrastructure and experience better economic development opportunities through the new Government's up to an additional **\$10 billion** investment.

The new Government will also deliver the world's best broadband service to all of regional Australia through the **National Broadband Network**.

### Up to \$10 billion investment for Regional Australia

The Government will open a new round of the *Health and Hospitals Fund*, of which there is \$1.8 billion remaining. For the first time, this round will be exclusively for Regional Australia.

The Government will also open up a new round of the *Education Investment Fund*, of up to \$500 million. For the first time, this round will also be quarantined to investments in regional Australia.

For the first time, the Government will provide a *one-third guarantee* in new investments in regional Australia – to improve education and health services around the country.

- At least \$41 million of the \$123 million provided for in the 2010-11 Budget to upgrade general practices, *primary care and community health services*, and Aboriginal Medical Services.
- At least \$66 million entitlement of the \$200m of the *Critical Skills Investment Fund* will go to regional businesses and workers.
- At least \$125 million of the \$388 million reward payments will be awarded to the *most improved schools* in regional Australia.
- At least \$15 million of the \$47 million facilitation payments allocated as part of the initial national roll out of greater *local school autonomy*.

In addition, the new Government will provide an extra \$1.4 billion in investment in *infrastructure and economic development* of regional Australia. This includes:

- A new \$800 million *Priority Regional Infrastructure program* to investment in projects identified by local communities in regional areas.
- A \$573 million investment from the Regional Infrastructure Fund to support local projects as identified by *Regional Development Australia committees* in regional areas that unlock new growth opportunities in regional Australia.

All of this comes on top of significant investments in regional Australia that the government already committed to during the 2010 election campaign. This includes:

- A \$6 billion *Regional Infrastructure Fund*. This includes \$900 million towards projects already identified in regional Australia, with \$4.5 billion remaining for further investments in economic infrastructure in regional Australia (in addition to investments identified by RDA committees, referenced above).
- A \$200 million *Building Better Regional Cities* to help build affordable homes in regional cities over three years and relieve pressure on our major capital cities, so that Australia can grow sustainably.

### **Better NBN for regional Australia**

For the first time, broadband prices will be the same for households and businesses regardless of where they are located – in the city, in regional Australia or in more remote parts of the country.

This will be achieved by a new cross subsidy to ensure a uniform national wholesale price so that regional areas can pay the same price as people in the city.

Regional areas will also be prioritised in the construction of the NBN

- Fibre will be built in regional areas as a priority.
- NBN Co will bring forward the introduction of wireless services and satellite services so that regional Australia can get access to better broadband straight away.

<b>ADDITIONAL REGIONAL SPENDING</b>	<b>(\$m)</b>	<b>Years</b>
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**NEW COMMITMENTS**

**Nation Building Funds Regional Rounds**

Health and Hospitals Fund Regional Round (up to	1,800	Forward estimates
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Education Investment Fund Regional Round (up to)	500	Forward estimates
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**Guaranteed 1/3 regional share of services**

Primary care infrastructure upgrades	41	Forward estimates
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Critical Skills Investment Fund	66	Forward estimates
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Reward payments for schools	125	5 years from 2012-13
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Local school control	15	Forward estimates
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**Regional Infrastructure**

Priority Regional Infrastructure Program	800	5 years to 2015-16
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Regional Infrastructure Fund (RDA stream)	573	Forward estimates
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**National Broadband Network**

Uniform national prices	No cost	
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Priority regional build	No cost	
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**Election commitments**

Regional Infrastructure Fund (General)	5427	10 years
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Telehealth	392	Forward estimates
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Building Better Regional Cities	200	Forward estimates
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<b>TOTAL (up to)</b>	<b>9,939</b>	
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