



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

Enhanced Australian Broadband Guarantee program

The Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth, today welcomed \$270.7 million dollars for the next phase of the Australian Broadband Guarantee and the new improved guidelines for better broadband services.

“These new guidelines will ensure that the Government’s multi-million dollar investment delivers maximum benefits for both consumers and providers in our community,” Amanda said.

“Local residents will benefit from new requirements for repairs and technical maintenance.

“Consumers will also benefit from better protection from “bill-shock” as ISPs will be required to cap their charges at five cents a megabyte or to reduce connection speeds when download limits are exceeded.”

The Australian Broadband Guarantee provides all Australian residents with better access to affordable metro-comparable broadband services.

The program offers financial assistance (in the form of incentive payments) to registered internet service providers to supply metro-comparable broadband services to residential and small business premises where such services would not otherwise be available.

In announcing the new guidelines, Labor’s Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Stephen Conroy said “There has been strong interest from industry and consumers in the new Australian Broadband Guarantee and many constructive suggestions have been addressed in the new guidelines to further improve the program.”

Other program changes include:

- Up-front payments for large infrastructure deployments;
- Greater flexibility in subsidy levels;
- Improved consumer protections; and
- A higher level of broadband service

The new program will begin on Monday 4 August 2008.

For more information about the Australian Broadband Guarantee program visit www.dbcde.gov.au/abg or freecall 1800 883 488 weekdays between 8:30am and 5:00pm (AEST)