



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Alert**

**Senator Stephen Conroy**  
**Shadow Minister for Communications**

**Sharon Grierson MP**  
**Federal Member for Newcastle**

**THORNTON COMMUNITY FORUM INVITES BROADBAND FEEDBACK**

**6.00pm**  
**Wednesday 10 October 2007**  
**St Michael's Church Hall, Taylor Avenue, Thornton**

Shadow Minister for Communications, Senator Stephen Conroy, and Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, have invited residents and small business-people to a forum to discuss problems with access to Broadband in Thornton.

"Talking to residents of Thornton recently, it is very clear that families, students and small business owners are being held back," Ms Grierson said. "Despite rapid population growth in the area, Broadband services are simply not keeping up."

"I look forward to meeting more residents to hear their concerns."

Senator Conroy will discuss in detail Labor's broadband policy announced by Kevin Rudd in March.

Labor's nation-building policy will deliver a national broadband network over the next five years. It will connect 98 per cent of Australian homes and businesses to high speed broadband internet services, at speeds over 40 times faster than most current speeds.

"Faster internet is not just about entertainment," said Senator Conroy. "The community has greater access to e-health and e-education whilst small business can better compete with big business."

"With access to true broadband infrastructure, small businesses can take advantage of remote access enabling a more flexible workplace, online stock ordering and management logistics, and cheaper internet based phone calls.

"Small businesses are being cut off from the major productivity enhancing applications of true broadband because of our ageing infrastructure," said Senator Conroy.

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