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David Bartlett, MP
Premier

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

Researchers urged to play a lead role in new digital economy

Premier David Bartlett today launched “Connected Tasmania – A 21st Century Digital Research Agenda”.

The forum is one of a series being conducted by the Tasmania Electronic Commerce Centre, an applied research organisation jointly owned by the State Government and the University of Tasmania.

The Premier said the recent National Broadband Network announcement by Prime Minister Rudd meant that Tasmanian researchers could help position Tasmania at the forefront of a new digital economy - globally.

“The selection of Tasmania by the Commonwealth as the first place for the roll-out of the NBN means we will be the showcase for the rest of Australia and leap frog the rest of the world in terms of coverage.

“It is not just about speeding up existing services, by offering an ultra-fast broadband coverage this will create possibilities never previously imagined.

“What we need to do now is ensure we capitalise on this incredible opportunity,” Mr Bartlett said.

“We have the chance to create world-leading ICT solutions in Tasmania, and researchers at the University of Tasmania will have a big part to play.”

The Premier told those present the challenge was for them to put their stamp on the ‘transformation of Tasmania’.

“As Premier, I want to see new ideas emerge and new economic opportunities nurtured so that Tasmania can use this technology to stay in front not just for a few years but for decades to come.

“That is why the State Government and the University of Tasmania jointly support the Tasmania Electronic Commerce Centre (TECC) because we want to invest in the cutting edge research that gets businesses excited about coming to Tasmania,” he said.

“The NBN roll out will be the most significant infrastructure project in Tasmania’s history. Fibre to the premise will provide an immediate stimulus to

our economy as well as long term benefits for future generations.

“All aspects of community life, commerce, government services, even household and individual interactions will be affected by these advances.

“I urge the Tasmanian research community to embrace and take advantage of new opportunities to be part of the digital transformation that is occurring,” Mr Bartlett said.

Further information: Tasmanian Government Communications Unit
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