



Fibre, the NBN and regional connectivity

How the national network is changing and what it means outside the cities

The key idea: the last upgrade wave is under way

Australia's fixed network is progressively moving to full fibre. The remaining copper-based (fibre-to-the-node) areas are being upgraded under a program backed by up to \$3 billion of Australian Government investment plus more than \$800 million from NBN Co: around 622,000 homes and businesses, more than half in regional Australia, with completion expected by 2030. (*Status current at July 2026.*)

What's changing in 2026

From July 2026, around 600,000 premises on fibre-to-the-curb become eligible for a full-fibre upgrade without having to order a high-speed plan first. A targeted program will then progressively upgrade remaining premises. For most households the switch means a technician visit and new equipment and much higher, more reliable speeds.

Why it matters for regions

Reliable fibre is what lets regional businesses, schools, health services and home workers participate fully in the digital economy and it's a precondition for attracting digital infrastructure investment (data centres, cloud services) outside the capitals. Where fibre doesn't reach, fixed wireless and satellite fill the gap, with their own trade-offs in speed and latency (see sheet 06).

Who decides

Nationally: the Australian Government sets NBN policy and funding; NBN Co builds and operates the network; the ACCC and ACMA regulate. **State and local:** planning rules for new developments set connectivity requirements; councils advocate for upgrade priority.

What good practice looks like

- Clear local communication about when an area will be upgraded and what's required.
- New developments built with fibre from day one.
- Honest information about what speeds each technology can actually deliver.
- Regional voices heard in upgrade prioritisation.

Questions to ask

When is my area scheduled for upgrade and what technology will I get? What will it cost me (standard installations are typically free; confirm your case)? What are my options if fibre won't reach my property?

Want to know more? NBN Co publishes upgrade schedules by address at nbnco.com.au; your council and federal MP's office track local rollout. This sheet is general information, not legal or planning advice; a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.