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Broadband Blackspots Initiative  
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Via email to [backhaulblackspots@dbcde.gov.au](mailto:backhaulblackspots@dbcde.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Backhaul Blackspots Initiative – Stakeholder Consultation Paper**

Gold Coast City Council is pleased to provide a response to the Backhaul Blackspots Initiative Stakeholder Consultation Paper released in April 2009.

Gold Coast City Council has driven a number of successful projects over the past 10 years to deliver improved broadband internet access to residents and businesses in the city and is keen to continue to work toward the vision of world class telecommunications access.

Council is therefore pleased to provide the following information in relation to the identified issues.

#### **4.1 Priority Locations**

Gold Coast City is adequately serviced by existing backhaul suppliers however improved backhaul services will be required in a number of key residential development areas over the next five years. Gold Coast City Council will be happy to work with officers in identifying these areas in the coming months and on finalisation of the South East Queensland Regional Plan.

#### **4.2 Possible Routes**

Gold Coast City is a large regional city in South East Queensland, bordered by Scenic Rim Shire, Logan City, Redland Shire and Tweed Shire. These surrounding shires and cities are likely to have significant backhaul blackspots, and such was identified in a joint project in 2005 to expand broadband access throughout these areas.

Gold Coast City provides an opportunity to leverage existing backhaul assets and locations to improve backhaul capacity to these neighbouring local government areas (LGAs). Additionally, existing or planned telecommunications infrastructure owned by Gold Coast City Council may provide additional backhaul capacity to both Gold Coast City and adjoining LGAs.

Gold Coast City Council is currently undertaking an analysis of existing broadband services in the City and identifying options to assist with the ongoing improvement of broadband infrastructure and the timely rollout of National Broadband Network initiatives in the City.

Additional projects to increase the take-up of improved broadband access are also being developed. This analysis and its recommendations are due for completion in early July 2009 and Council would be happy to provide a summary or additional information to the Department at that time.

We are keen to work with the Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy on the delivery of high speed, high capacity broadband Internet access to residents and business in Gold Coast City.

For further information, please contact Morgan Parker, Industry Development Officer on (07) 5581 7524 or [morganparker@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:morganparker@goldcoast.qld.gov.au).

Yours faithfully



Darren Scott  
**DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MAJOR PROJECTS**  
*For the Chief Executive Officer*