

Fleurieu Regional Development  
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Victor Harbor SA 5211

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The Manager  
Backhaul Blackspots Branch  
DCDE  
GPO Box 2154  
Canberra ACT 2601

**RE: BACKHAUL BLACKSPOTS INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

This letter is a response from Fleurieu Regional Development on behalf of Alexandrina Council, City of Victor Harbor, District Council of Yankalilla and Kangaroo Island Council to stake holder consultation for the Backhaul Blackspot program as part of the National Broadband Network.

**About the region**

The area represented by these Councils is approximately 7,280 square kilometres and has a population base of over 45,000 and over 36,000 homes and over 12,000 businesses.

The Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island region is located approximately 60km south west of the City of Adelaide and represents some 7,280 square kilometres of space. The Fleurieu Peninsula's main tourist centres are of Victor Harbor, Goolwa, Port Elliot and Middleton where the population trebles over the summer months and is double during other holiday and warmer periods. The region is part of the Sea Change phenomenon and its potential population on any weekend far out strips the official ABS Census data. This is continually of concern as weekend residents demand equal services on weekends and holidays, as they receive in metropolitan Adelaide.

Kangaroo Island is located 110 km south west of Adelaide and is 11km from the main land. The local, national and international tourist population to Kangaroo Island is 150,000 per year and growing.

**Competitive Backhaul**

There is no competitive backhaul in any town across the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

**Locations**

The following locations are the major centres across the region and none have competitive backhaul.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Population</b>
Victor Harbor	10,711
Goolwa	5,390

Strathalbyn	3,662
Yankalilla/Normanville	2,700
Port Elliot	1,623
Kingscote	1,537

### Priority locations

Victor Harbor (10,711) is the largest town in South Australia not to have competitive back-haul. Therefore this is the highest priority for back-haul in this region and it should be the high priority in South Australia.

All towns in the Fleurieu are growing faster than the state average. Goolwa/Hindmarsh Island and Strathalbyn and Districts, while currently under 10,000 people, service a nearby population close to that figure.

The second priority is for competitive back-haul to Kingscote on Kangaroo Island. The reason for this priority is that of social equity. Social equity and access to competition should far outweigh any business case for services to an Island 11km from the mainland.

The priorities then on should be based on population size.

### Possible Routes

One possible route to deliver competitive backhaul to all these communities on the above table as well as McLaren Vale (population 2,694), Willunga (population 2,044) and Sellicks Beach (population 1,556) is to create a fibre ring from Mt Barker to Victor Harbor (via the railway line) and backup the Victor Harbor to Adelaide Rd to Willunga and McLaren Vale on to Adelaide.

From Victor Harbor you could microwave to Kingscote via Range Rd, and from Range Road to Yankalilla/Normanville and to Sellicks Beach and either to Adelaide or back to McLaren Vale.

With breakout points being provided to all the major population centres on the Fleurieu Peninsula via the fibre ring.

A fibre ring not only provides competitive back-haul to the region, it also enables connects other communities to competitive back-haul that does not currently exist.

Unfortunately I have not had the resources to develop a map of this proposed route, however, if you require one I will endeavour to obtain one with some notice.

### **Conclusion**

It is my belief that the economic and social fabric of the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island would be significantly enhanced by the provision of competitive backhaul. Both regions are a blackspot for competitive backhaul with Victor Harbor the largest town in South Australia not to have competitive backhaul.

With a good network design, as outlined above, it is possible to provide backhaul to all major towns and communities on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island and others in adjoining Council areas that are currently in a backhaul blackspot.

Should you require further information please don't hesitate to contact me on 08 8552 1557.

Kind regards

Barry Featherston  
Chief Executive  
Fleurieu Regional Development