



Better wireless services after official launch

18th June 2010

MAYOR Bob Abbot joined Senator Mark Furner to officially declare the Connecting The Coast fibre optic and wireless network complete and open for business last Friday.

The launch was held at the Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Buderim, with the school one of the in-kind contributors to the project and one of the first in the region to use the new technology.

About \$2.9 million in funding was raised by council, the university and Allegro Networks with the Federal Government also contributing \$2.9 million.

Matthew Flinders and Reed Property Group were in-kind project partners, while Mach Technology built the Cooroy Data Centre.



Launch of the Clever Networks fibre optic network at Matthew Flinders College. Cutting of the old copper making way for the new fibre optic. Bob abbot and Senator Mark Furner.

Jason Dougherty/The Daily

The new 29.5-kilometre, optical fibre link and wireless base station network provides ultra high speed, business-grade broadband access to more than 50% of Sunshine Coast businesses, educational facilities and health sector service providers. The network spans a connectivity area of 800sq ks.

The new technology means the region can now compete with metropolitan counterparts on an international level.

It will also permit increased business use and productivity and has paved the way for new telecommunications carriers to enter the market.

Council's Economic Development and Entrepreneurship spokesman Lew Brennan said the Connecting The Coast project was an example of how the region identified an issue and then found the people, expertise and funds to get the job done.

"With the help of our project partners, we now have a truly competitive, world-class, open-access wireless and broadband network service which means increased educational, business, research and employment opportunities for the region," Cr Brennan said.

Mr Brennan made special mention of council's economic programs manager Michael Whereat who had managed the project over the past three years.

"Council is now planning fibre optic-capable communities where this kind of infrastructure is in place before the development proceeds.

"Examples include the Maroochy CBD, the Sippy Downs education and knowledge precinct, Palmview master-planned community and the already completed Reed Property Group's new RIVA apartment block."



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