

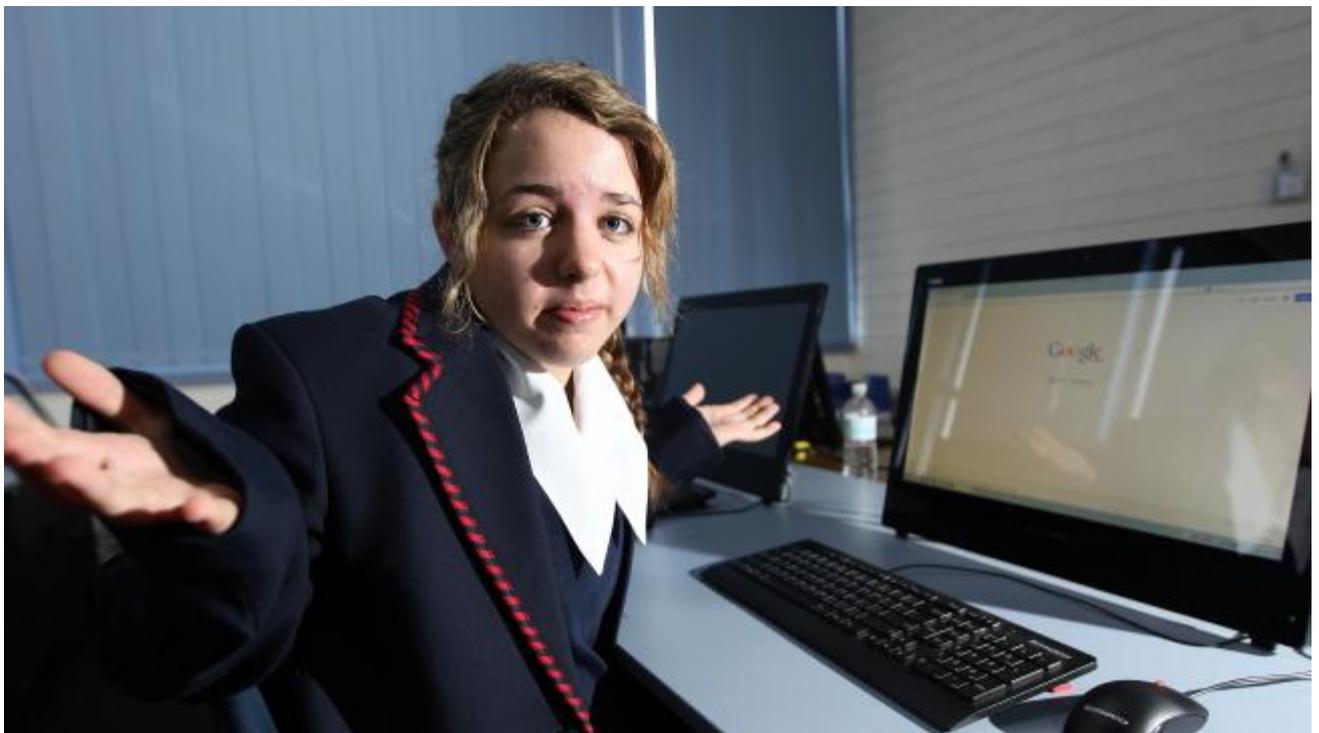
# Geelong Advertiser

Geelong

## Lack of NBN leaves schools lagging with slow internet access

May 18, 2015 11:31am

Cassie Zervos Geelong Advertiser



Geelong Baptist College year eight student Zoe Brien, 13, is frustrated at the school's poor internet connection.  
Picture: Alison Wynd

IN an era where internet and technology is forever advancing, there are areas of Geelong that have been left off the NBN rollout plan.

Despite some 50,000 premises across Geelong being able to access fast broadband, in the southern suburbs there are many residents and traders who are unable to connect to basic internet access.

Geelong Baptist College is one school forced to resort to innovative methods of teaching due to poor internet access because of its location.

Geelong Baptist College secondary principal Neil Wetmore described the connection as being similar to dial-up.

"It's affecting what they can do in the classroom. For example, while some schools organise guest speakers via Skype, we can't do any of that," Mr Wetmore said.

He said if teachers wanted to show videos on YouTube, they had to capture it at home, in their time and then show it to students when they get to school.

"Our staff go over and beyond for their students, they are fantastic ... But we should be able to have fast internet connection just like everyone else," Mr Wetmore said.

Corio MP Richard Marles said the children on the outskirts of Geelong had been forgotten by the Federal Government.

"Students at Geelong Baptist College and the new grade 5 campus at Kardinia International College are missing out on vital internet-based education because of the - Coalition's second-rate National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout plan. It is a plan which effectively cuts parts of Geelong's connection to the world," Mr Marles said.

Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson said while some parts of Geelong were included in the roll out, southern parts of Geelong were left out and her goal was to change that.

"Over many months I have been lobbying to fast track NBN to Geelong and welcome Mr Marles in joining with me in lobbying NBN Co so that all areas of Geelong have fast internet speed that they deserve," Ms Henderson said.

"I am fighting hard to fast track the rollout of the NBN to Geelong, particularly in the Corangamite suburbs of Belmont, Highton, Waurin Ponds, Marshall and Grovedale."

The NBN Co released a quarterly national rollout plan update taking it to September 2016.

Colac West and Winchelsea have been added to the NBN rollout.