

# Geelong Advertiser



Minister for Broadband and Communications Stephen Conroy tees off with golf partner Richard Marles at his campaign launch. Picture: Glenn Ferguson

## 75,000 homes, businesses to get Labor's 'better' NBN

ALEX SINNOTT, Geelong Advertiser

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MORE than 75,000 homes and businesses across the Geelong region will have access to the National Broadband Network as part of a major Labor election pledge.

Opposition communications spokesman Jason Clare visited Geelong on Thursday to make the announcement alongside Corangamite Labor candidate Libby Coker as the ALP steps up its attack on the Coalition's NBN rollout across the region.

Ms Coker said more than 75,000 homes and businesses would be connected under the plan, although some localities would be stuck with the Coalition's "copper-to-the-home" initiative.

"For once, (Liberal MP) Sarah Henderson's non-delivery on promises has worked for the Geelong region following the announcement of our NBN plan," Ms Coker said.

"People in Torquay will be locked out unfortunately due to Malcolm Turnbull's second-rate NBN plan. Under Labor's policy, more than 75,000 homes and businesses will have 21st century fibre to the premises, rather than Turnbull's second-rate copper to the home."

If elected, the Shorten Labor Government will direct NBN Co to prioritise the rollout of fibre-to-the-premises to homes and businesses in Bell Park, Bell Post Hill, Belmont, Breakwater, Corio, Drumcondra, East Geelong, Fyansford, Geelong, Geelong West, Grovedale, Hamlyn Heights, Herne Hill, Highton, Lara, Leopold, Lovely Banks, Manifold Heights, Marshall, Moolap, Newcomb, Newtown, Norlane, North Geelong, North Shore, Rippleside, South Geelong, St Albans Park, Thomson, Wandana Heights, Waurin Ponds and Whittington.

Corio MP Richard Marles said the previous Labor government started the fibre-to-the-premises build in Geelong in 2013 but then communications minister Malcolm Turnbull "ripped up the fibre design contract" for the region.

"Labor will fix the mess made by the Liberals and roll out more fibre to more people in our community," Mr Marles said.

The Labor frontbencher officially launched his campaign in Geelong on Wednesday night alongside ALP senator Stephen Conroy.