

## NBN Co's Smart Places to deliver network to difficult outdoor areas

NBN Co plans to launch a service for property developers to deliver innovative new equipment that will enable a connection to NBN even in demanding outdoor locations.

Under the planned Smart Places product offering, property developers are now able to place orders for construction of this infrastructure as part of construction projects that will commence after January 2023.

The Smart Places program will involve providing miniaturised, ruggedised and reverse-powered network connection devices that will enable the delivery of NBN connectivity to locations that cannot be serviced using standard equipment.

The Smart Places service relates to NBN's push into what it calls Connected Communities. In April, NBN Co said it wanted to work with RSPs to hook up 'smart' street furniture and playground lighting as part of a second phase of the wholesaler's Connected Communities pilot.

In addition to street furniture and playground lighting, NBN Co's list of use cases included parking management, electric vehicle charge stations, air quality monitoring and environmental monitoring.

Separately the company in 2020 released an approved non-premises list supporting installation of FTTN, fibre and Enterprise Ethernet connections to ATMs as well as traffic and transport infrastructure, weather monitoring stations, air quality sensors or fire risk area monitoring. In March this year it updated this list, supporting supply of Enterprise Ethernet for temporary sites that will be continuously occupied for at least 12 months.

NBN Co is already running a Smart Places pilot program at 35 locations nationwide, involving the delivery of the technology to locations such as public parks and skate parks, as well as to infrastructure such as traffic lights, electric vehicle charging stations and water infrastructure.

NBN Co executive general manager for new developments Andrew Walsh said while the service is still being under consultation with industry, it is expected to deliver significant value to property developers.

"Developers have told us they want broadband infrastructure partners who save or make them money, are easy to build and work with, deliver reliably to their schedules, and add value to



their projects. So, that's exactly what we are working to deliver," he said.

"We want to provide a product that delivers now and for the future, a product that we build once, build right and build at the right price, a product that adds real and enduring value to the developer and their customers, the buyers and renters."

One of the pilot Smart Places projects involves a collaboration with public wi-fi and 5G neutral host provider OneWiFi & Infrastructure as well as property developer Peet to provide connectivity for the smart city infrastructure for the Googong Township development project.

Peet Limited Googong Development Manager, said the partnership between NBN Co, Googong, OneWiFi & Infrastructure and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has been "incredibly productive," with NBN Co being collaborative throughout the entire installation process.

"Developing a township of 18,000 people is complex by nature given the multitude of moving pieces and scale of our plans. NBN Co has been quick to anticipate issues before they happened and addressing them when they arose," he said.

"Googong... is home to infrastructure for electric cars, digital-enabled waste and facilities management systems and lighting and environmental monitoring systems. This smart technology is critical to Googong which is the first development in Australia to roll out smart-city infrastructure on such a scale. It means we need partners like nbn and OneWiFi to ensure we can meet our community's needs."

Smart Places is one of a series of proposed new offerings for developers expected to be rolled out over the next few years, Walsh added. NBN Co's New Developments team has delivered network access to more than 1.2 million new development premises nationwide over the course of the rollout.

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