Can-do Ipswich wants Brisbane's broadband

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'We love the concept' ... Ipswich mayor Paul Pisasale wants Brisbane's super-fast broadband extended to his city. *Photo: Robert Rough*

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale wants to see Brisbane's privately funded super-fast broadband network extended to its neighboring city.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman last week announced Brisbane-based multi-national i3 Asia Pacific would install a **$600 million fibre optic broadband network in the city** within the next four years, at the expense of the company. Cr Newman said he "could not wait" for the federal government's NBN to be rolled out in the capital.

Cr Pisasale said he would be speaking to Cr Newman and i3 Asia Pacific about bringing the infrastructure to Ipswich. "I would [like to get on board with the concept] but what I need to do is get some background on the company and information like that," Cr Pisasale said. "Campbell has only just brought it to my attention and I haven't had a chance to have a look at it but I have spoken with a few councillors and we love the concept, we love the idea and we look forward to having some discussions with the company."

He congratulated Cr Newman on the deal and said he would like to see both cities working together on the project, especially with the cities' wastewater services both being managed by Queensland Urban Utilities. "Why lay pipes for sewerage and not put in all the infrastructure you can when you are down there?" he said.

"Let's start laying the stuff we need for the future." Despite a **positive reaction from Brisbane residents**, Cr Newman's broadband plans have angered residents who **live outside Brisbane City Council boundaries**, especially in the North Lakes/Mango Hill area.

Mango Hill Progress Association president Laurence Christie told Fairfax Media on the weekend it was "infuriating" to think that high-speed broadband could be installed "so close, yet so far". Another resident, Ross Cobb, said the North Lakes population increase put enormous pressure on local servers and as more housing went in, internet access became worse. Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Allan Sutherland said the council had spoken to NBN Co about rolling out the NBN network "sooner rather than later".

"I'm heartened by the response and the NBN's genuine desire to deliver world class broadband to the region, and believe we're in a strong position to be one of the first communities in southeast Queensland to benefit from the NBN's rollout," he said.

"This is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia with some the country's slowest broadband speeds and as far as I can tell there has been zero contact with council from any private company with viable plans to deliver better infrastructure and faster broadband speeds in the Moreton Bay region."That's why we've been working closely with the NBN."

- with Ellen Lutton

http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/technology/cando-ipswich-wants-brisbanes-broadband-20101018-16qr3.html