

## NBN Co Blog

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22 MAY

COMMUNITY

### Faster broadband bears fruit for farmer

Posted on Wednesday 22 May 2013 by [Chris Niesche](#)



Growing fruit might seem like a simple proposition, but Han Shoing Siah expects connecting to the National Broadband Network will lead to significant benefits for his tropical fruit business.

Siah was quick to sign up for fixed wireless broadband when it went on offer and in fact was the first person in the Northern Territory to receive the service, which was connected in early April.

His family business, Tropical Primary Products, grows mangoes, jackfruit, durian and pomelo at their farm about 60km out of Darwin, and Siah expects several benefits from the video conferencing that the faster services over the NBN will allow.

Video conferencing could help improve communication with Tropical Primary Products' wholesale agents in Sydney and Melbourne. If there's a problem with the fruit when it arrives in the capital cities Siah will be able to inspect it over video instead of just relying on the agents' descriptions.

The business buys packing equipment and supplies from Asia and Siah plans to use video communication over the NBN to inspect the products and deal with any problems. "Instead of actually flying over there to make sure the product's perfect we can do some trouble-shooting over video," he says. "Sometimes they have manufacturing issues that we need to be advised of and to see in person."

Finally, Siah is a board member of a growers group and hopes one day to be able to attend meetings over video rather than having to travel to attend in person.

"The NBN makes this connection so much easier and can help me expand my business," he says.

NBN Co finished the rollout of fixed wireless in the Northern Territory in early April. The fixed wireless network is designed to offer service providers wholesale speeds of up to 12Mbps for downloads and 1Mbps for uploads, with plans to increase these speeds to 25Mbps for downloads and 5Mbps for uploads from June 2013.

NBN Co's fixed wireless and satellite networks serve communities with low population density where it is impractical or uneconomical to roll out fibre optic cable. The fixed wireless services are delivered by radio communications via antennae that transmit a signal direct to a small outdoor antenna on a home or business. A standard installation of network equipment, including an outdoor antenna and a network termination device, is free of charge.

Siah and his family started the farm at Lambells Lagoon after they migrated from Malaysia in 1987. Now that the family has fast reliable broadband Siah also plans to use services over the NBN to video call aunts and uncles who remain in Asia.

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### People are doing all sorts of things with the NBN. What about you?

If you want to share your NBN story, send us an email at: [Yourstory@nbnco.com.au](mailto:Yourstory@nbnco.com.au). Make sure you tell us a bit about how you are using the NBN and don't forget to include your contact details.

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By [Chris Niesche](#), NBN Co Blog Contributor

Christopher Niesche has been a journalist for nearly two decades, first with The Australian, then Dow Jones Newswires and ultimately as a deputy editor at The Australian Financial Review. He lives in Sydney with his wife and son.

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#### Legal stuff you need to know:

When we talk about speeds delivered over the National Broadband Network, we are referring to the wholesale speed to telephone and internet service providers. The speed you can achieve, and services you can use, on your individual connection will depend on many factors including the services you subscribe to, the software and communication protocols you use, quality of your equipment and connection to your home/business, the broadband plans offered by your telephone or internet provider and how it designs its network to cater for multiple users.

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