Media Release

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Road Muster rubber hits the road for regional WA tour

Western Australia’s own nbn™ Sky Muster™ satellite truck hit the road this month on a four week tour of regional WA.

The Road Muster tour will cover more than 5,000 kilometres, visiting towns such as Kununurra, Wyndham, Derby, Broome, Port Hedland, Marble Bar, Newman, Pannawonica, Karratha, Coral Bay, Exmouth, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Mingenew, Gingin, Narrogin and Katanning to name a few.

The custom-made vehicle will spend around the next four weeks touring outback WA showcasing how services over the nbn™ network can help bridge the digital divide by delivering fast broadband access for rural Western Australians.

The impressive looking, high-tech vehicle carries a portable satellite antenna that will allow locals to get hands-on with services over the nbn™ network via a Wi-Fi hotspot powered by the Sky Muster™ service.

WA Corporate Affairs Manager Ebony Aitken said West Aussies can expect to see Road Muster travelling around remote and regional areas of WA in September for about four weeks.

“The best way we can demonstrate the speed and effectiveness of a Sky Muster™ satellite service is to take it to peoples’ doorstep – so we’re hitting the road to bring broadband to regional WA,” she said.

“We’re really keen to provide the community with an opportunity to experience the service for themselves in real-time.

“It is going to be a real game-changer for those living in regional and rural areas – users will have access to e-health services, distance education and business opportunities, as well as numerous applications to stay connected with friends and family.

“The Sky Muster™ nbn service is a critical tool that can’t come soon enough,” Ms Aitken said.

Ms Aitken said the WA Road Muster vehicle was one of six nbn satellite vehicles deployed across Australia and was capable of setting up in the middle of nowhere.

The converted four-wheel drive Ford features a carbon-fibre satellite dish capable of finding and transmitting broadband from a Sky Muster™ signal anywhere in Australia. It is equipped with two large touch-screen television/computers, carries its own power source and is designed to reach the most remote parts of the country in the most rugged terrain.

Sky Muster™ is designed to deliver wholesale speeds of up to 25Mbps download/5Mbps upload* and data allowances of up to 150GB per month. Internet service providers will provide retail plans at different price points and data allowances, so eligible residents and businesses can choose a plan that best suits their needs.
Launched in April, the service is expected to provide access to fast broadband to around 400,000 premises across the country – with more than 60,000 of those, or 15 per cent of all eligible premises located in Western Australia. A second Sky Muster™ satellite is set to be launched in October 2016.

For more information or to find out if you are eligible to connect to a Sky Muster™ service, visit: http://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/information-for-home/satellite.html

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*We’re designing the nbn™ network to provide these speeds to our wholesale customers, telephone and internet service providers. End user experience, including the speeds actually achieved over the nbn™ network, depends on the technology over which services are delivered to your premises and some factors outside our control like equipment quality, software, signal reception, broadband plans and how the end user’s service provider designs its network.

Notes to editors

• nbn is building a new and upgraded, fast wholesale broadband network to ensure that all communities across Australia will have access to fast broadband. Our goal is to connect eight million homes and businesses by 2020.
• Internet service providers will provide retail plans at different price points and data allowances, so eligible resident and businesses can choose a plan that best suits their needs.
• There are currently over 37,000 users on the interim satellite service across Australia. nbn is aiming to migrate interim satellite users onto the new satellite within one year of the commercial launch (May 2017), while at the same time migrating new users onto the service.

How do I place an order?
• To find out if you are eligible for the Sky Muster™ service, please contact an internet service provider or check your address at www.nbn.com.au. For a list of internet service providers offering Sky Muster™ services, please check our website for updates.

How much will the Sky Muster™ service cost?
• The plans and associated pricing for homes and businesses will be set by internet service providers (nbn is a wholesale-only supplier). For a list of internet service providers offering Sky Muster™ services, please check our website for updates.

How long will it take for me to get connected?
• nbn has specified different service level targets with internet providers depending on the location. It is critical to understand that the size of Australia does mean that the activation process will take some time. We expect to have 85,000 users on the Sky Muster™ service by the end of June 2017. nbn encourages regional, rural and remote Australians interested in the Sky Muster™ service to contact their internet provider to discuss indicative timeframes and a suitable plan for their needs.

For more information, visit www.nbn.com.au