

For immediate release
Thursday 4 August

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Tenants miss out on NBN roll out

The NBN launch in Brunswick today has raised serious concerns that tenants will be disadvantaged by the 'opt in' model adopted for the test sites. This model relies on tenants to request their landlord consent to the NBN connection being installed.

"Tenants are not empowered to provide consent to the installation. The Residential Tenancies Act requires the tenant to secure consent before the installation of any fixture. Landlords have little or no interest in whether their rental property is connected to the NBN. As a consequence the take up rate in Brunswick of 52 percent has been completely unsatisfactory" said Toby Archer, Tenants Union policy worker.

"This is a messy and inefficient process for the connection to an essential service and is likely to result in tenants having to meet the entire cost of installation in the future after the initial free roll out period is completed" said Mr Archer.

"The obvious and most effective method to ensure the highest possible take up rate is to mandate installation in all properties other than those where the owner has made a decision to opt out" said Mr Archer.

"Anything less than this will leave tenants to foot the bill for poor decision making by landlords and a lack of leadership by government and the NBN Co" said Mr Archer.