

# Faster speed for Tweed on cyber horizon

By BOB ANTHONY

MODERN telecommunications will become the 21st Century equivalent of road and rail links when it comes to attracting new business and growth to the Tweed according to the Tweed Economic Development Corporation (TEDC).

The TEDC has joined with the Tweed Shire Council in backing a Southern Cross University submission to have the Australian Government's National Broadband Network (NBN) rolled out early on the NSW North Coast.

The regional submission which involves 14 local councils, the university and its campuses and businesses stretching from the states that the projected growth of the northern NSW east coast will rival many capital cities.

TEDC chief executive officer Tom Senti said it



Tom Senti

was vital that the region be 'fast tracked' for the broadband roll out which will be part of a \$43 billion investment by the Federal to deliver superfast telecommunications to Australian homes and workplaces.

The objective is to provide 90 per cent fibre to the premises coverage, delivering speeds of 100 megabits per second.

Mr Senti said it would make a huge difference to Tweed, particularly in attracting new businesses.

"These days, you can be based anywhere but you need to be able to communicate with your market," he said.

"The existing copper wire system is slow and unreliable and there are still areas in the Tweed that are finding it difficult to get access.

"We have the lifestyle, the location to airport and ports and major population centres but we also need to have efficient and reliable internet links."

Council's Director Technology and Corporate Services Troy Green said council was excited to be a contributor to the NBN submission.

"The NBN will deliver substantial long term benefits to the Tweed which will ensure the future access to a whole range of government and private services," said Mr Green. "For the average person on the Tweed, it would mean internet access up to 80 times faster."

The submission is currently before the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Stephen Conroy.