

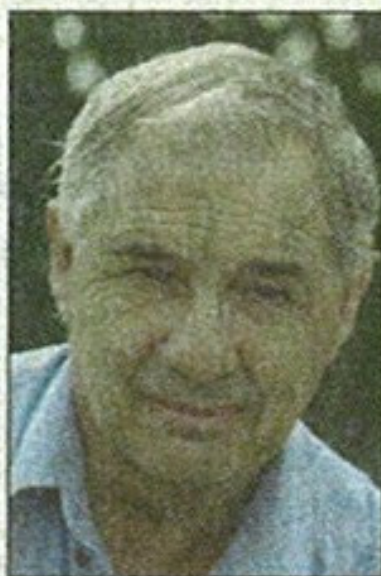
'Web network needed now'

IT is vital that the new National Broadband Network (NBN) is rolled out early on the north coast, according to Tweed Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) chief Tom Senti.

Tweed Shire Council and TEDC have given full support to a Southern Cross University submission to have the Australian Government's NBN rolled out early in the region.

Mr Senti said the Tweed in particular faced many challenges in addressing substantial population growth in the older age groups on the one hand, and on the other, creating new jobs through business and investment growth.

"Addressing these challenges is very much dependent on having access to appropriate telecommunications infrastructure, as in op-



□ TOM SENTI says Tweed needs high-tech broadband quickly.

tic fibre, and hence the critical importance of this NBN submission," Mr Senti said.

"We need technology which encourages the relocation of commercial offices and head offices of major corporations to regional lifestyle regions like the Northern Rivers, where they have ready access to essential infrastructure such as international airports, the

sea and air ports of Brisbane and telecommunications infrastructure," he said.

The submission is a collaborative effort involving 14 local councils and businesses stretching from the Tweed to the Great lakes, south of Port Macquarie.

The region has a combined population of 550,000 people, with growth rates on a par with capital cities.

In April last year, the Australian Government announced it would invest up to \$43 billion over eight years to deliver superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces.

Council's Director Technology and Corporate Services Troy Green said the submission was in line with the Telecommunications Infrastructure Action Plan adopted by Council last may.