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Greg Watts  
President  
Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce  
PO BOX 396  
HELENSBURGH NSW 2508

Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Date

P16/357244  
518452  
29 July 2016

  
Dear Mr Watts

### Request for NBN conduit installation under Council footpath works

Thank you for raising the issue of telecommunications conduits under Council footpath works. We agree that there are clear cost and operational benefits to both parties, and certainly wish to minimise footpath works having to be redone.

As such, Wollongong City Council has been working closely with NBN Co staff and their contractors since the NBN project inception. In 2013 Kiama and Minnamurra were part of the first trial in Australia, and they were fed through the Wollongong LGA from the Wollongong exchange. The entire Wollongong CBD followed shortly afterward in the roll-out program, and we have undertaken significant footpath works in the Wollongong CBD during and since that time, so this process is not new to us.

During footpath works in the CBD, Council and NBN have previously undertaken formal contractual arrangements for the installation of conduits, on an individual project basis, to ensure best result for both parties. However, this has not been common across the LGA as the majority of NBN optical fibre is installed through existing telecommunications ducts.

Your request is to have, as a mandatory works process, NBN engaged on major footpath projects, such that telecommunications infrastructure is available for subsequent utilisation. Council engineers advise that, while not 'mandatory', this is our current practice. NBN (and other telecommunications companies) are obliged by law to provide to Councils their upcoming work plans, and Council designers consult with NBN on all major footpath projects to determine future impacts. In addition, every Council civil design considers underground infrastructure through Dial Before You Dig. There are still instances where work correlation does not occur, particularly with smaller telecommunications contractors, however we are working toward reducing these instances.

Regarding Walker Street Helensburgh, Council has contacted NBN and been advised of the expectation to install NBN in the northern suburbs over the next 18 months. Council's Asset engineers will confirm an agreed outcome for our major construction projects of Grand Pacific Walk, Stanwell Park, & Walker Street Helensburgh with the NBN Co-development team.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Stephen Pemberton, Civil Asset Engineer on 4227 7111.

Yours sincerely



**Lord Mayor  
Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM  
Wollongong City Council**

cc Cr Jill Merrin