



**MEDIA RELEASE UNDER EMBARGO [0500AEST Thursday 25 November]**

# **HYPERONE TO UNLOCK THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, 25 Nov, 2021** – Australia’s new national fibre network, HyperOne, will help unlock the economic potential of regional Australia, according to research.

A report from Deloitte Access Economics shows the new \$1.5b network is expected to deliver more than \$3b in direct economic benefits and contribute to \$22.6b in broader economic gains - much of that in regional areas.

The report found HyperOne could help reduce the digital divide between regional and metropolitan areas, helping to spur the growth of new and existing industries away from the major cities.

“HyperOne has the potential to unlock opportunities for regional economic development, providing the connectivity needed for regional businesses to compete in the global economy. Delivering affordable backhaul into regional Australia is key to levelling the playing field,” the report states.

The report identified agriculture and resources as established industries that could benefit from the improved connectivity HyperOne will deliver.

It also found HyperOne could support the construction of new data centres across regional Australia, with Darwin well placed to become a data centre hub for south east Asia.

The network could also benefit Australia’s space sector, enabling the construction of more ground stations in regional areas, according to the report.

HyperOne founder Bevan Slattery, who grew up in Central Queensland, said regional Australia had enormous untapped economic potential but had been held back by a lack of quality digital infrastructure.

“The opportunity is there - and I think we are going to see an explosion in regional economies over the coming decades as we work to close the digital divide between major cities and country areas,” he said.

HyperOne will connect every Australian capital via a 20,000km+ network of hyperscale fibre optic cables capable of carrying more than 10,000 terabits per second. It will also create more than 10,000 jobs during construction.

Critically, the network will include more than 2,000 on and off ramps across regional areas, providing many communities with access to backhaul fibre for the first time.

It will serve as a new fibre backbone, allowing the NBN and broadband providers to improve their offerings to consumers.

Mr Slattery said Australia's existing fibre backbones effectively bypassed many of the communities along their route, offering no way for people in regional areas to connect.

"In many cases, you have communities with backhaul fibre right under their feet but have no way to access it and are stuck with subpar broadband or satellite connections," he said.

"That won't happen with HyperOne. This is a true national network, not a capital city network."

Mr Slattery said the improved connectivity enabled by HyperOne would also make it possible for more people to live outside the capital cities while retaining jobs that have traditionally been based in metropolitan areas.

"The Covid experience has shown us that, in many industries, people can work from anywhere - provided they have fast and reliable internet. HyperOne will open up more opportunities for people to do these jobs from regional communities.

Construction work on the first stage of HyperOne is expected to start soon, with the project to be completed by late 2024.

### **Media Enquiries**

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### **About HyperOne**

HyperOne is Australia's new \$1.5 billion, 20,000 km hyperscale fibre optic network. The project will be the most complete national fibre backbone ever constructed and the first built in almost two decades, connecting all major data hubs in every capital city in every state and territory, and delivering better connectivity to regional and remote areas.

HyperOne will be a significant enabler of the future growth of our nation and our digital economy, capable of delivering more traffic than every other national backbone built in Australia's history combined – carrying over 10,000 terabits per second. HyperOne will support future industries such as aerospace, AI/machine learning, cloud, satellite, defense, resources, agriculture and renewable energy as well as provide critical backhaul transmission capacity to existing digital infrastructure and local distribution networks such as the National Broadband Network and mobile operators.

HyperOne will break down the digital divide between our cities and our remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and isolated communities. Lack of access to

high-speed, reliable digital infrastructure is a major barrier to the development of industry and jobs in regional and remote areas. By providing valuable off ramps to deliver critical digital infrastructure and connectivity we will open up opportunities in these underserved communities.

The project provides critical infrastructure of not only national and but also international significance. It will more than double the number of locations international undersea cables can land and interconnect in Australia, creating an unprecedented opportunity for Australia to cement its position as a secure, stable and capable interconnection point in the greater Asian region.

HyperOne is committed to delivering a carbon-neutral hyperscale network. To achieve this we will utilise a variety of clean energy technologies. HyperOne is also committed to the project being built by Australians for Australians. We will also prioritise local suppliers, local materials and local workers to deliver the project, driving strong job creation at a critical time for our economy.