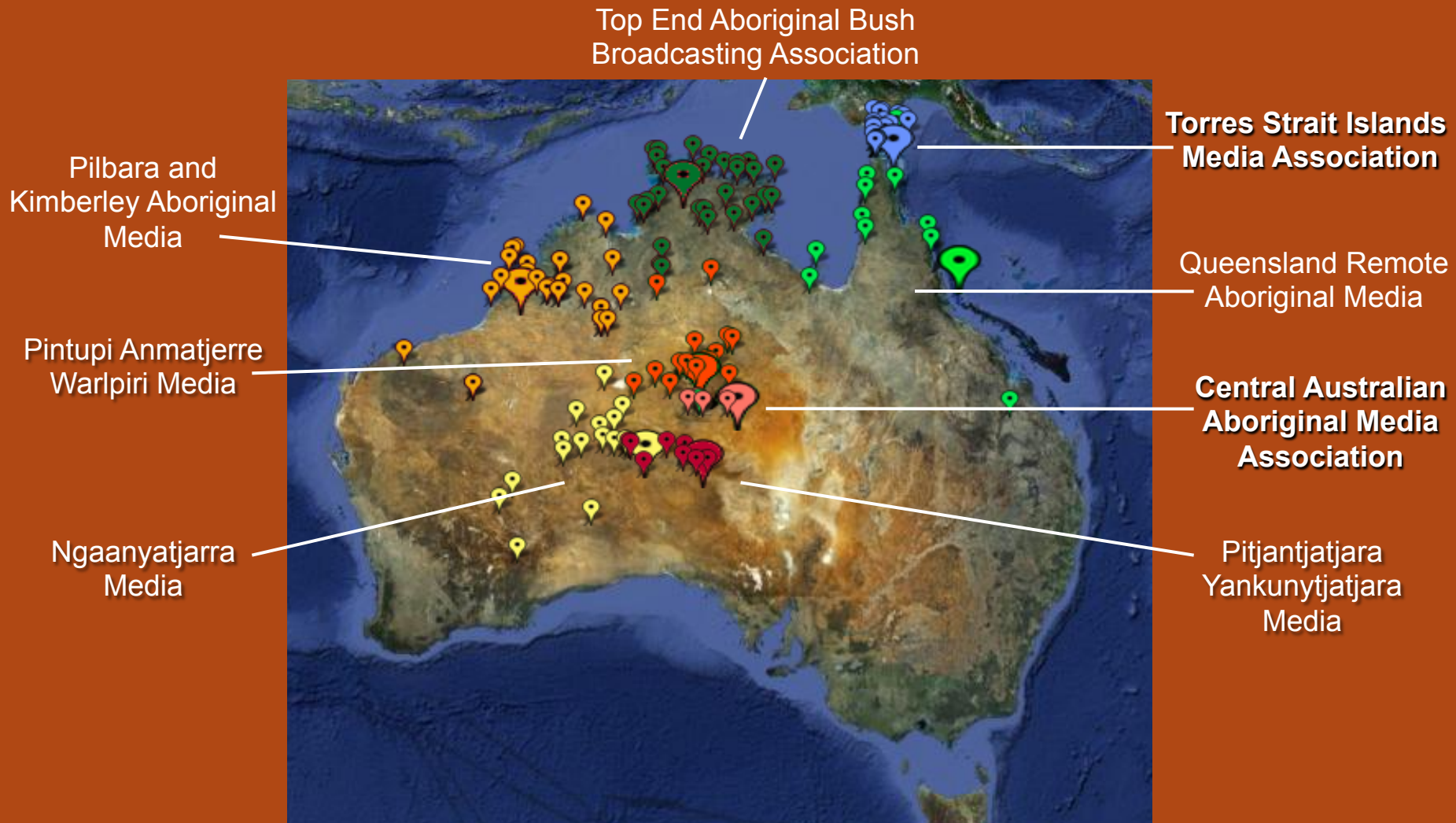# Building Digital Inclusion in Remote Australia:

Joining the Dirt Tracks to the Superhighway

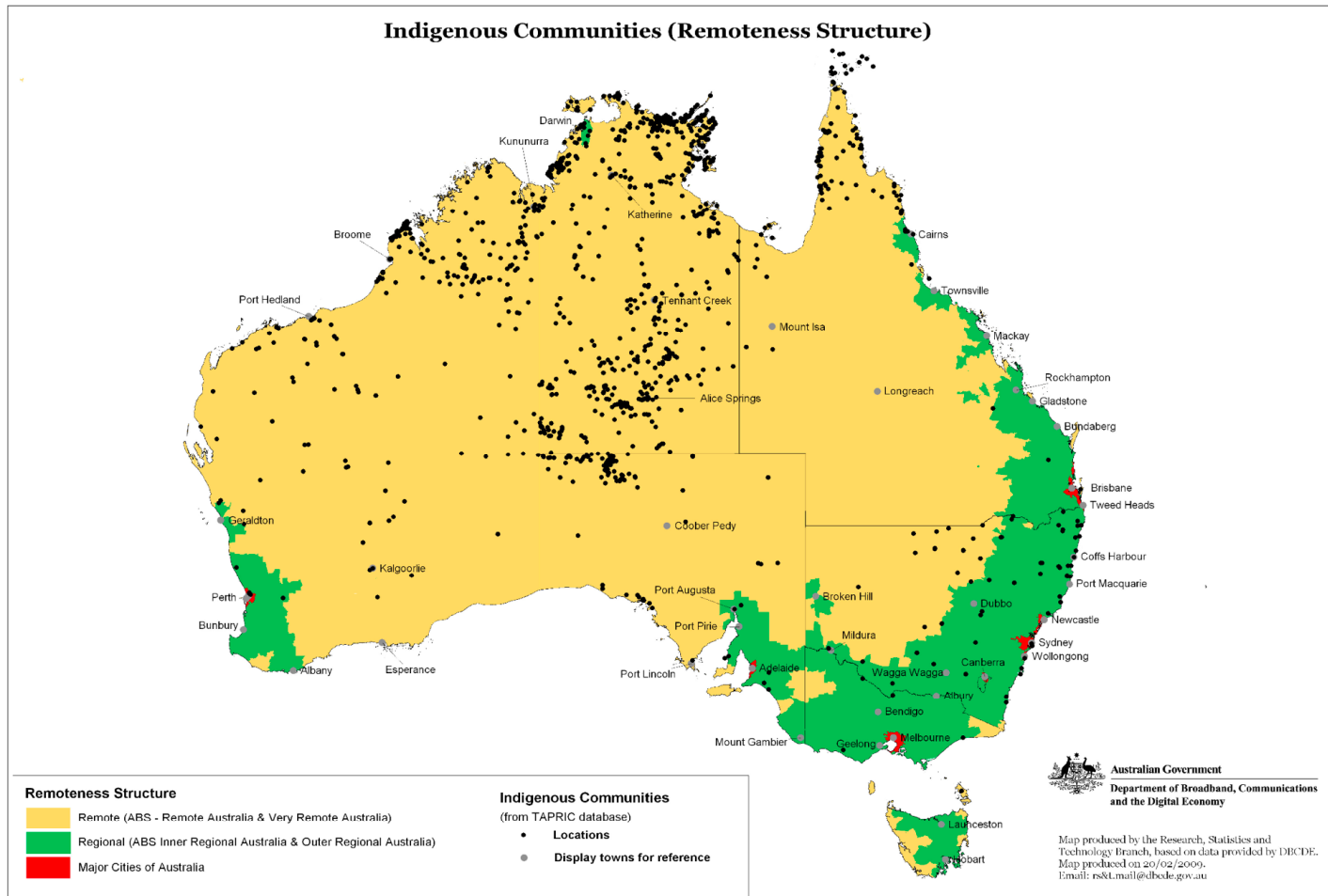Presenter: Daniel Featherstone
Indigenous Remote Communications Association

ACCAN Conference 5th September 2012

IRCA
Indigenous Remote
Communications Association

Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association

Torres Strait Islands Media Association

Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media

Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media

Pintupi Anmatjerre Warlpiri Media

Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association

Ngaanyatjarra Media

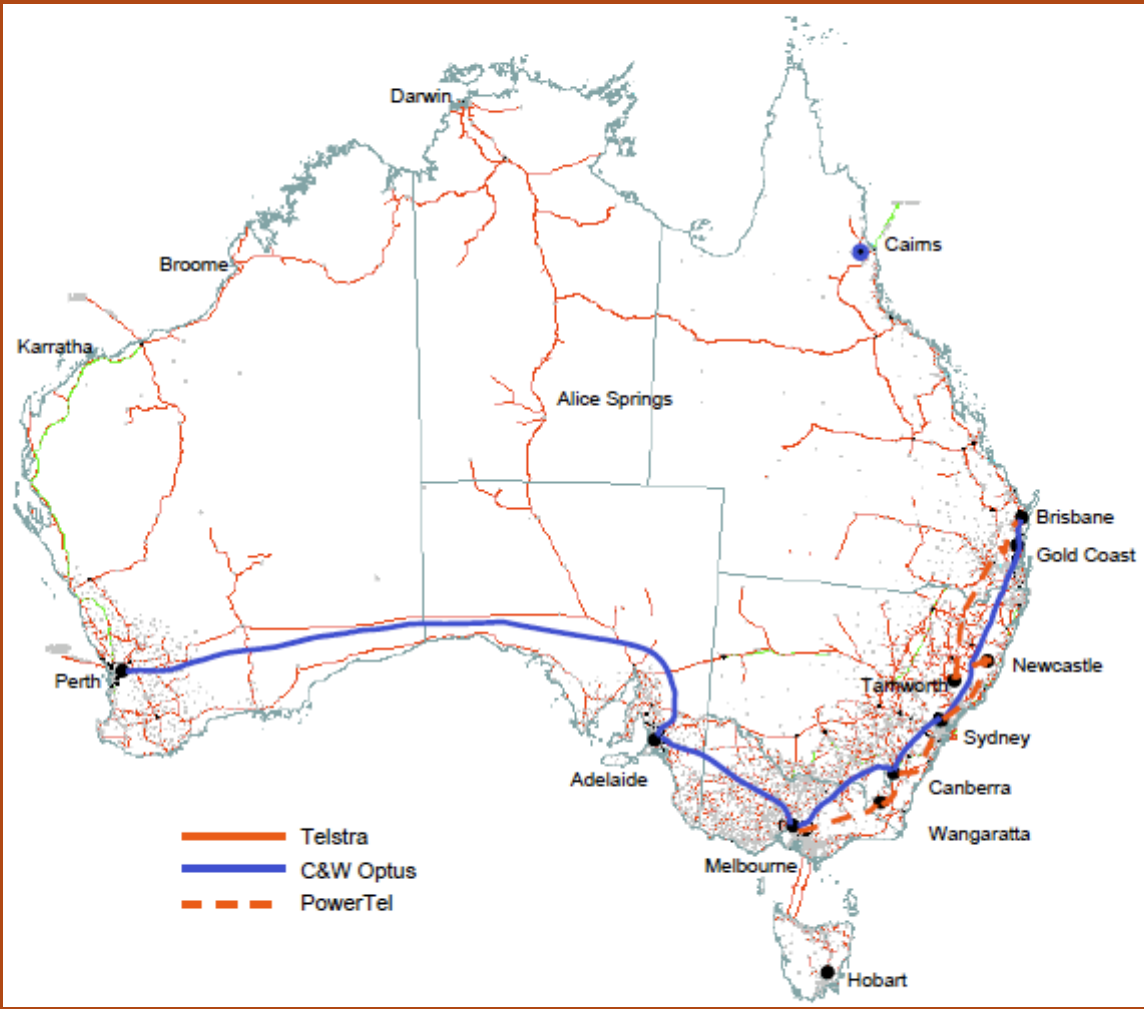Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Media

Indigenous Remote Communications Association represents the media and communications interests of remote Indigenous Australia

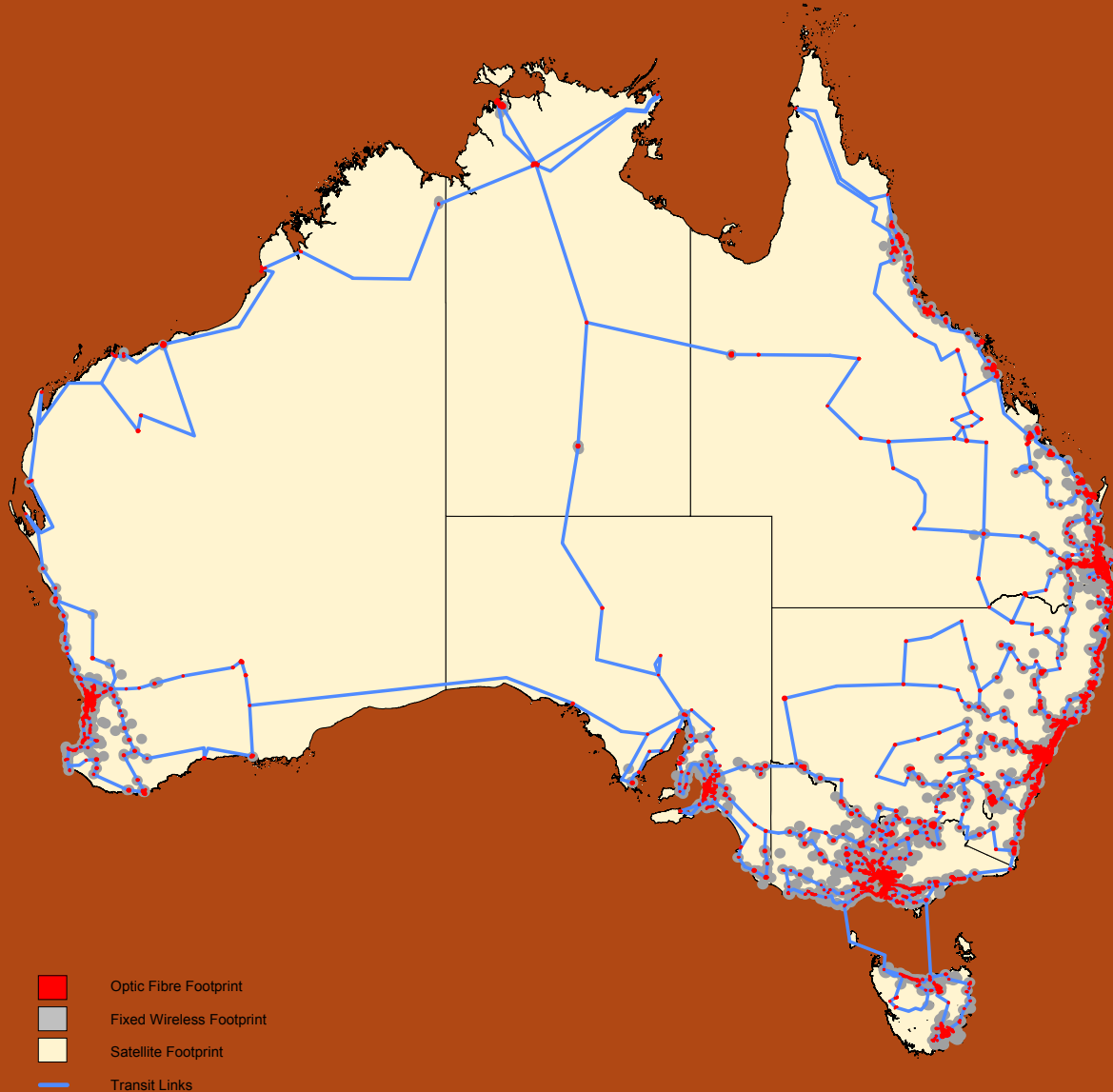# Remote Indigenous Communities

Fibre Optic Cable in Remote Australia (2001)

NBN coverage

Legend:
- Optic Fibre Footprint
- Fixed Wireless Footprint
- Satellite Footprint
- Transit Links

"A digital divide exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia."
(Finding 2.11, Regional Telecommunications Review 2011-12)

The Gaps in Remote Australia

⋆ High unmet demand for basic telephony services

⋆ Mobile telephony is the most appropriate form of telecommunications

⋆ Existing remote fibre networks are not linked into the NBN

⋆ Very low home internet access and IT equipment

⋆ Market model of NBN breaks down in remote Australia

⋆ Latency and asymmetry in NBN satellite solution restricts key applications - health, education, justice, IPTV etc

RTR Key Recommendations

* Indigenous Communications Program should be expanded, including a trial of wi-fi hotspots using selected community phones. (Rec 2.6)

* ACMA & DBCDE should report on telecoms in remote Indigenous communities to monitor the digital divide, including data on availability, take-up & usage. (Rec 2.7, 5.1)

* Co-investment program, funded by Commonwealth/state/territory governments, to expand the mobile coverage footprint in regional Australia. (Rec 3.2)

* NBN Co should consider community reference groups as a means of gathering local community input and advice on the network rollout. (Rec 4.6)

* Digital Hubs, Digital Enterprise and Digital Local Government Programs should be expanded into additional remote and regional areas, not just NBN release sites. (Recs 5.2,5.7,5.9)

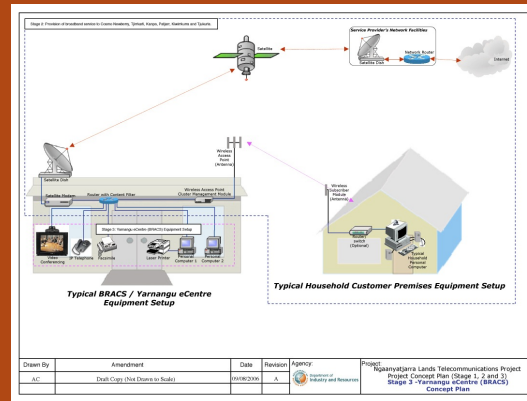# Other strategies are needed for Digital inclusion.

Access facilities

Training and support

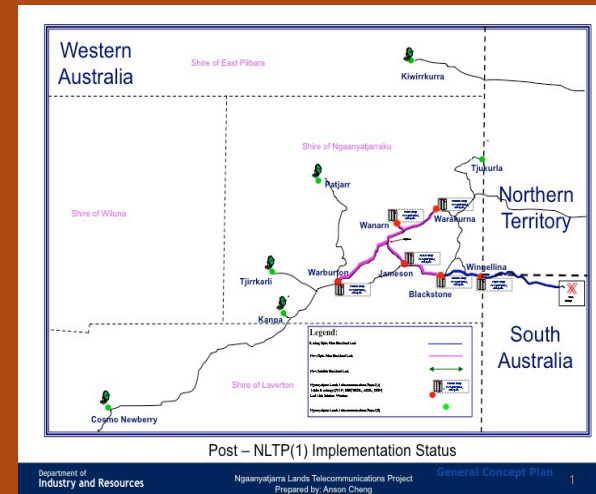Relevant applications

Relevant content

Last-mile delivery

Local strategies

Case Study: Ngaanyatjarra Lands Telecommunications Project

Community uses of broadband

The Broadband for the Bush Alliance

An evolving group of remote organisations and people with a shared purpose:

1. shared voice

2. single access point

3. Coordinate collaborations/ trials/ projects/research; and

4. Build capacity of stakeholders in use of NBN infrastructure.

For more info contact:

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