

# Linking up

## to benefits of the NBN at Riverside Estate

As the first residents of this estate near Wodonga move in this year, they will be able to hook up to the national broadband network straight away, writes **Janet Howie**.

THINKING ahead in terms of technology has brought its reward for the developers of a housing estate near Wodonga that will welcome its first residents in the middle of this year.

The installation of fibre optic cables at Riverside Estate means home owners in every stage will be able to access the national broadband network from the moment they move in, according to JMP Developments directors Andrew and Jenny Stern.

Mr Stern says they had not been fully aware of the implications of the cables until the recent visit of the NBN Co truck.

"We've now had it confirmed ... as home owners move in, they can be hooked up," he says.

With four houses presently under construction and the first completion date about late June, Riverside Estate homes can be part of the network far earlier than other Border properties.



"We're about three years ahead of the game here," he says.

The Sterns believe Riverside Estate will be the first development in this area to offer network access right from the earliest stage of construction.

Mrs Stern says they have made it a priority to keep up with such changes.

"We always wanted within the estate to make sure we had the latest technology here," she says.

"It's just that point of difference, that product that we are offering straight away."

The website of NBN Co, which is responsible for building, operating and

maintaining the national broadband network, indicates Riverside Estate is ready for the network.

NBN Co estimates work in other areas of Wodonga will start in September 2014 while work is scheduled to start in Albury in December 2013.

Mr Stern says people are slowly becoming more aware of the national broadband network.

"I think that there's still a long way to go with general public recognition of a) the NBN and b) the benefits they'll get out of it," he says. "The more people understand the benefits, the more excited they are about it."

**JMP Developments directors Andrew and Jenny Stern are pleased by the progress of Riverside Estate, near Wodonga, with four homes under construction and the promise of early access to the national broadband network. Picture: BEN EYLES**