



# AARNET3 High-Speed Internet Backbone Gives Remote School Students Access to National Museum's "Talkback Classroom"

Remote students gain opportunity to question Federal Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer via live streaming videoconference on August 8

Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNET) is working with the National Museum of Australia in Canberra and the NSW Department of Education and Training, to provide high school students in rural and remote areas of NSW with live, two-way videoconference access to the Talkback Classroom forums held by the Museum.

Talkback Classroom is a regular forum held at the National Museum where teams of three students investigate current issues and participate in a live interview with a leading decision maker. On August 8, the interviewee will be Federal Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer on the topic of the Australian/Korean Energy Forum.

In addition to students attending the forum in-person at the National Museum, this session will include students from up to 100 regional and rural NSW schools participating via live-streaming videoconference across the AARNET3 national backbone, connected to the NSW Department of Education and Training network.

Chris Hancock, CEO, AARNET, said, "AARNET3 is a high-speed, high-capacity network specifically designed to give Australian schools and universities access to services, information and opportunities they have never had before, removing geographical constraints. The National Museum's Talkback Classroom project is a perfect example of how AARNET3 gives students in remote areas access to the same tools as those in city areas."

David Arnold, Manager, Education, National Museum of Australia, said, "Our Talkback Classroom sessions give students access to high-profile people they would not normally get the opportunity to speak with. It is only fair that we also look to provide this access to students in regional and rural areas, which AARNET is helping to make possible."

David Foley, Co-ordinator, Technology Infrastructure, NSW Department of Education and Training, said, "Our remote students have had regular access to videoconferences and webcasts from agencies and facilities outside the Department of Education and Training, but AARNET3 offers a new dimension in capacity. Using the AARNET3 solution, we can offer students access to a broader range of high-quality educational opportunities, such as Talkback Classroom."

The National Museum's Talkback Classroom is being held in the Museum's Studio at 10am on Wednesday, August 8.

## About AARNET

AARNET Pty Ltd (APL) is the company that operates Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNET). It is a not-for-profit company limited by shares. The shareholders are 37 Australian universities and the CSIRO. AARNET provides high-capacity leading edge Internet services for the tertiary education and research sector communities and their research partners. AARNET serves more than one million end users who access the network through local area networks at member institutions. For further information, please visit:

[www.aarnet.edu.au](http://www.aarnet.edu.au).

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