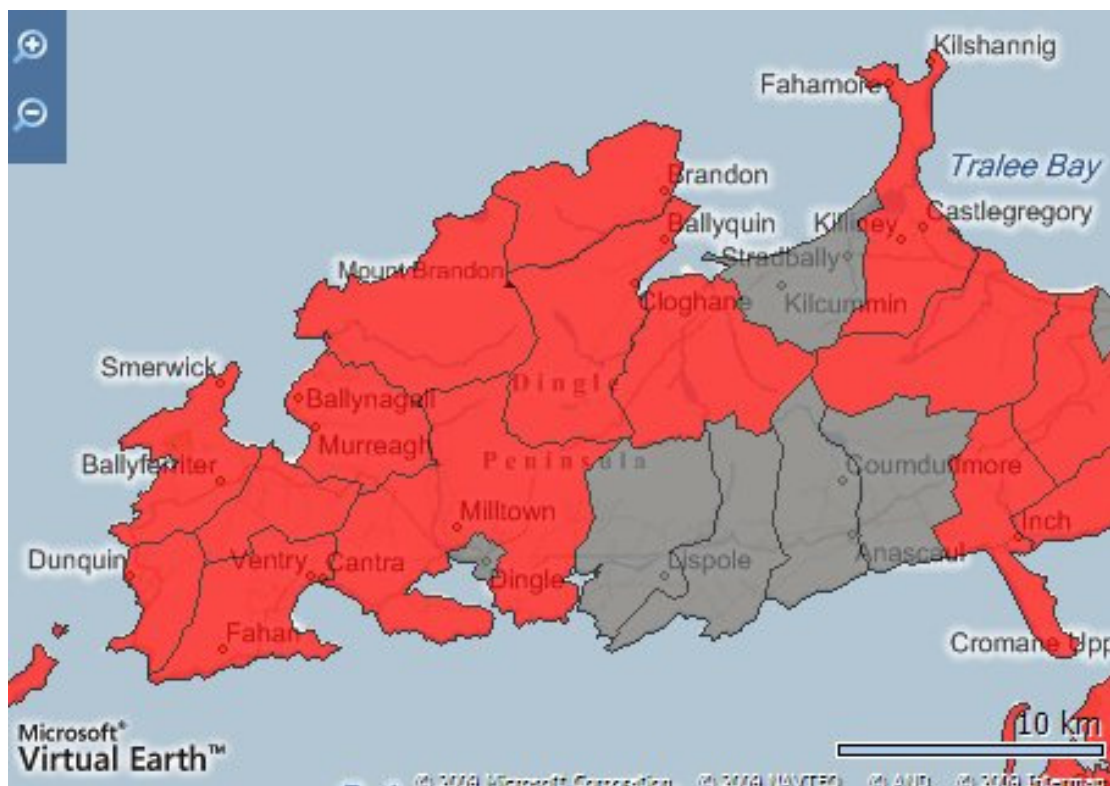


Fitzgerald welcomes provision of Broadband under the National Broadband Scheme to West Kerry – 16th April 2009

Following representations made to Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan TD regarding the provision of Broadband to areas in West Kerry I received the following response.

“My department has entered into a contract with ‘3’, a Hutchison Whampoa Company for the delivery of the National Broadband Scheme (NBS). 3 will be required to provide services to residences and businesses that are within the NBS area and who seek a service. 3 is currently planning the construction and rollout of the required infrastructure for the provision of the service. Challenging rollout targets have been agreed with 3. Services will begin to be rolled out in April 2009 and the entire NBS area must be covered by September 2010.

You will be pleased to learn that the general areas of An Gaeltacht and Clochan will be covered by the NBS.”



Map taken from <http://www.three.ie/nbs/index.htm>

The areas in red are the locations in West Kerry that will be covered under the National Broadband Scheme - Essentially Ventry, Dun Chaoin, Ballyferriter, Muiríoch, Ballydavid, Feothanach, Cuas, Brandon, Cloghane, Maharees, Castlegregory & Aughacasla.

I will continue to make further representations to 3 and Minister Ryan to ensure that this rollout of Broadband for the Gaeltacht, Cloghane, Brandon and Castlegregory goes ahead as soon as possible. The availability of Broadband to these communities is essential for small businesses in West Kerry to continue to compete and attract customers in a global market place.

Should people want to find out exactly if there area is included in this National Broadband Scheme they should visit <http://www.three.ie/nbs/index.htm>.

Ends