

From: Ben Dixon  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2008 11:43 AM  
To: National Broadband Network Taskforce  
Subject: public submission on broadband in aus.

Hello,

I am an Australian periodically visits Japan. I am both a musician and a software engineer. I am in Japan studying the Japanese flute, but while here I continue to work as a software engineer. I am able to do this via the miracle of modern technology - my laptop is my office, and modern communications technology allows me to work anywhere there is an internet connection.

In Australia, I work from home, on a 1500-512kbit/sec asymmetric adsl connection. This is considered moderately fast for a home connection (assuming 512-128k is the more usual broadband speed here in Aus) and is only just adequate. I need to sometimes move and work with large database files that take some time to transfer at these speeds.

Here in Japan, I live in a town in the mountains of Saitama, about 2 hours by train from Tokyo. I live in a caravan on a vacant block, next to a large vegetable garden. It is similar in many ways to living in the Blue Mountains outside Sydney. Last time I was here, I had a 50Mbit/sec adsl connection. Yesterday, I switched providers, and it took 2 men about 1/2 an hour to install an 80MBit/sec fibre optic connection. This is nothing special, and is a cheap, standard home user plan.

As you can see, the difference is quite stark. Australia is a backwater on the internet, as far as most users are concerned. As an IT professional, I can work faster and more effectively from Japan, than I can in Australia. The 12Mbit/sec speed proposed for the Australian network may seem wonderfully fast, but this is only because we have been completely starved for so long that any tiny morsel of food looks like a feast.

Now is the best chance we've ever had not to be left behind by the rest of the world. Please take it, and don't leave us languishing.

Thanks,

Ben Dixon,  
IT Professional