

**From:** Mike Deecke  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 March 2008 1:58 PM  
**To:** National Broadband Network Taskforce  
**Subject:** Personal written submission to the panel

Dear sirs,

I am writing this as an existing broadband user on the Mt Crosby Exchange in Brisbane's west, and as a regular contributor to the Whirlpool broadband discussion forum. I am retired, with a background in communications, IT and Internet management stretching back 45 years.

I presume the comments and threads on Whirlpool re the proposed national FTTx project are well and truly perused by the department on a daily basis, and any pertinent comments passed to the Expert Panel for consideration, so I will not refer to that forum further in this email, except to say that there are some very bright members, and some very frustrated voices, in there worth listening to, admittedly with a fair amount of dross thrown in for good measure.

I humbly offer my comments for your consideration:

1. I am a long term user of broadband facilities, and agree with the type of infrastructure approach outlined by the government. This country is just too large to achieve the desired outcome to 98%+ of the population without government intervention on a Public-Private Partnership basis as proposed.
2. I feel the government has identified a reasonable and fair approach to achieve the desired outcome.
3. Please do not ignore or diminish the OPEL role in providing a rapid roll out of reasonable-speed broadband to remote users, perhaps later to be served by the main FTTx infrastructure where practical.
4. I also feel a national FTTP-based system should be the ultimate service objective, to ensure as future-proof a system as present technology allows. Let's not make the "railway gauge" and HFC mistakes again.
5. There are also two classes of urban and regional users (including myself) who need to be freed without delay from the clutches of the Telstra copper monopoly; These are users behind non-DSL-enabled, or full, RIMs, CMUXes and Pair gain systems, and those like me who are limited to the artificial handicap of a 1.5Mbps DSL speed because of Telstra-based technology blocking and no alternate ISP provision, whether it be due to exchange/MDF access, or lack of competitive backhaul services. Telstra is the only DSL service available to me at this time. However I am also unsure just how much effort other ISPs' put into providing cooperative DSLAM's for wholesale in such locations. I suspect less than enough in some cases.
6. Finally, although it may be politically and legally difficult, I firmly support some well-defined form of structural separation for Telstra, and if needed, Optus. They are logically the most cost effective source of existing infrastructure facilities available, so that a fair and equal wholesale playing field is made available for all commercial broadband suppliers, including retail Internet suppliers such as Bigpond and other ISP's, and other commercial and government users of the proposed national high speed broadband network. It would be a shameful waste to repeat the duplication and overbuild that took place in the HFC debacle of 15 years ago.

I appreciate this opportunity to air my views to you and look forward to a rapid and creative solution to our national broadband needs.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Deecke,