

Sent: Monday, 16 June 2008 8:50 AM  
To: Regulatory  
Subject: National Broadband Network  
Dear Sirs,

I would propose a similar setup to the current energy market in Australia where the infrastructure itself remains in the hands of the Government. Telecommunications infrastructure is critical infrastructure and should not be held by a private organisation of any kind. The underlying infrastructure should be held by the government with commercial organisations given access to the system.

The Government should be looking at a paradigm shift with regards to telecommunications and begin to consider the copper and fiber in the ground in the same way as it considers roads and rail. Optic fiber can carry extremely high volumes of data traffic and a single optic fiber can be operated by hundreds of separate companies at once. If the Government were to look at optic fiber as basic infrastructure, ensure that all exchanges have a fiber connection and the lease connections that that network to the private organisations Australia would have a world leading telecommunications network, lower cost of use and a long term income generator for the Government.

Please understand that the optic fiber in the ground and the technology that works over it are separate. Just as a road does not care what drives over it fiber doesn't care what is sent over it, but unlike roads a heavy load won't wear the cable out. If the government owns the fiber and rolls it out to all exchanges equally then companies can compete on the technology that they put into the exchanges to utilize that network.

In the end no private organisation should be given total power and monopoly over critical infrastructure. Telecommunications infrastructure is more important today in our Nations security than at any time in the past and relying on a company that must report to shareholders to manage this is a dangerous.

I hope that this is something that will be considered. We stand at a point that will shape Australia's competitiveness well into the future. Please don't make a mistake and give this vital national asset into the hands of any private organisation.

regards,

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Kye Macdonald Bbus MREC