

Sent: Monday, 16 June 2008 8:22 PM
To: Regulatory
Subject: response to request for public submission on NBN

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my wish to respond to your request for public submissions on the proposed National Broadband Network, my single biggest concern is that Telstra will end up with control and ownership of the NBN, this would equate to a national tragedy in my opinion. Given Telstra's historical price gouging for Internet access in this country, and their often successful attempts to hamstring competitive delivery of services from other suppliers, their success in winning the tender for the NBN will only lead to less affordable broadband access in Australia.

We have already heard their demands for excessive ROI, and their claims that ADSL2+ cannot co-exist with a FTTN process - something that is a technological lie but ensures the destruction of their competitors providing alternative, competitively priced broadband access.

There is a very real risk that this project could actually have major detrimental effects on Australia's competitiveness and the access of Australians to world class Internet at affordable prices, it is imperative that Telstra be prevented from having control of this project and returning to monopoly control of internet access. The nation would be better served by having one of the competitors awarded the NBN contract.

If Telstra are to be the successful tenderer, against the national interest, then it is imperative that there is very strict price control to ensure they don't continue to engage in their current price gouging practices. We would also need regulatory control to ensure they continued to allow competitors to provide services such as ADSL2+ to consumers. Price control is also required over Telstra's access to infrastructure and backhaul - this has been another factor in limiting access to available services at a realistic price under the current environment.

Enormous damage was done to this country when the telecommunications infrastructure was gifted to Telstra during privatisation, the operational separation was a political disaster that has had disastrous consequences for consumers in this country, while we can't fix the political failures of the past, we can ensure we don't continue them nor compound them with poor decision making around the NBN.

Regards, Rick Mooney