

Submission to:

**Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee - National
Broadband Network Companies Amendment (Commitment to Public Ownership)
Bill 2024**

Dear Committee Members,

The LNP's copper wire/HFC cable MTM NBN has been an unmitigated technical, financial (for the NBN) and economic (for Australia) disaster for this Country and for many NBN users, including myself. Tens of \$Billions have been wasted on outdated copper wire and HFC "technologies" that belonged in a museum a decade ago, because of the LNP's MTM NBN decisions going back to 2013 and 2014 and their ongoing aftermath.

1. The LNP's copper wire/HFC cable MTM NBN has cost more to build (peak funding) than Labor's original FTTP NBN as confirmed by leaks from the NBN itself to the Sydney Morning Herald in 2021.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/secret-figures-show-full-fibre-nbn-may-have-cost-10-billion-less-than-claimed-20210221-p574gj.html>

2. Based on evidence, 30,000 FTTP rollout rate a week possible, (and reduced FTTP capex per premise cost) from the NBN itself to Committee Hearings in 2017 (NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK - JOINT STANDING Tuesday, 1 August 2017) and 2018, Labor's original FTTP NBN would have been finished by the end of 2021 or early 2022, not the false claims from the Coalition by end of 2023, 2024 (NBN 2013 Strategic Review), 2026 and 2028 (so called "Counter Factual" in the NBN 2016 Corporate Plan, which wasn't even a costing or timing of Labor's original FTTP NBN).

NBN CEO, at that time, Bill Morrow even doubled down on his 30,000 FTTP a week claim by then stating *"If somebody said that's a challenge they'd throw down in front of me, I'd take that challenge"*.

Senate Estimates: Bill Morrow and Stephen Rue confirming \$3,900 FTTP capex on 24th May 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQRWCGoqXw4>

3. As a consequence of the disastrous LNP MTM and its ongoing impact the NBN is still losing money (negative cash flow) because the MTM has lower revenues, shockingly higher operating costs and vastly higher ongoing capital costs to just maintain the MTM and now overbuild/upgrade the LNP's copper wire vs. a fixed line FTTP NBN.

This is further and dramatically demonstrated in a very recent NBN consultation paper (November 2024), and also recent Senate Estimates hearings in 2024, which show as more FTTP is rolled out revenue is forecast to increase, by about \$1.8 Billion from FY 2024 to FY 2029, operating costs to decline and ongoing capex costs to decline, and the decline in Brownfield numbers is in due in large part to the shocking unreliability of the LNP's copper wire MTM NBN and Brownfield premises becoming Greenfield premises as confirmed by the NBN itself.

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbn/documents/sell/sau/consultation-paper-1-nbn-2025-replacement-module-application.pdf.coredownload.pdf>

Direct Operating Costs are forecast to be \$1.9 billion over the period FY27 to FY29, which is 23.7% of total forecast

opex and a decrease of 6.4% on the expected expenditure for the period FY24 to FY26 of \$2.0 billion

*The decrease in forecast Direct Operating Costs is due to a forecast reduction in assurance, restoration and maintenance opex **resulting from the upgrade of services from FTTN and FTTC to FTTP**, which has a lower frequency of network and service incidents, and the continuation of efficiencies achieved through nbn's truck roll reduction program.*

and, from Senate Estimate hearings;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrAbbL3AaDg>

LNP don't understand the financial benefits of FTTP vs. copper MTM Senate Estimates 13th Feb 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCtyiof5sNA>

NBN confirms take up rate higher on FTTP than LNP copper FTTN - Senate Estimates 13th Feb 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glboe1dHaPk>

NBN customer loses due to "quality of service" on LNP MTM - Senate Estimates - 13th Feb 2024 Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVfQVbh9dz0&t=957s>

Competition caused by "degraded" "long loop" copper wire premises (FTTN), and fibre FTTP is starting to fix that

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVfQVbh9dz0&t=934s>

25,000 homes every year go from Brownfield to Greenfield due to housing development

What actually is the Liberal's/Peter Dutton's current Broadband Policy?

A search of their revamped website for "Broadband" only brings up 1 link, to a bio of Paul Fletcher which mentions,

<https://www.liberal.org.au/?s=broadband>

<https://www.liberal.org.au/team/paul-fletcher>

"..2009 his book about broadband, Wired Brown Land was published by UNSW Press."

So is Liberal broadband policy going forward a book written 15 years ago?

Actually that wouldn't surprise me.

A search of The Nationals website,

<https://nationals.org.au/?s=broadband>

brings up old articles already more than 2 years out of date and nothing new on Broadband.

Labor's Broadband policy is clear as set out in the 2024 NBN Corporate Plan

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbn/documents/about-nbn/reports/corporate-plan/nbn-co-corporate-plan-2024.pdf>

".....NBN Co achieve its long-term goal of deploying FTTP across 100 per cent of the fixed line footprint", and

"FTTP remains the aspirational long-term fixed line technology of choice in the HFC footprint for NBN Co"

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a). The NBN must stay in Public Ownership to ensure the disastrous technical and financial mess created by the LNP's copper wire/HFC cable MTM NBN is fixed with FTTP as rapidly as possible, AND to stop the LNP in the future, if ever elected, potentially selling off the NBN to Communist China (like the LNP did with the Port of Darwin), or back to Telstra (InfraCo) or some foreign private equity firm, foreign individual in the USA, or a USA based media conglomerate.

(b). In addition to that Public Ownership Bill (noting but despite: *The amendments proposed by the bill are not intended to change the operations of the NBN, or the governance of NBN Co*), and with consideration of a new NBN CEO just starting and new NBN Chair to be appointed, an amendment should be added to this NBN Public Ownership Bill, that the NBN is required to develop a formal costed plan for inclusion in the 2026 NBN Corporate Plan to overbuild/upgrade the entire train wreck LNP copper wire/HFC cable MTM fixed line component of the NBN, with FTTP, and complete that upgrade to FTTP by no later end of FY 2034.

This end of FY 2034 target date is IMO well within the NBN's technical, resource and financial capability without any additional Government equity and ties in with the NBN's own statements in its 2024 Corporate Plan,

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/content/dam/nbn/documents/about-nbn/reports/corporate-plan/nbn-co-corporate-plan-2024.pdf>

"NBN Co achieve its long-term goal of deploying FTTP across 100 per cent of the fixed line footprint", and

"FTTP remains the aspirational long-term fixed line technology of choice in the HFC footprint for NBN Co"

and it would be 20 years since the disastrous decision in 2014 by the LNP and Malcolm Turnbull to deploy a copper wire and HFC cable based MTM NBN.

Also the significant economic benefits of more FTTP are clearly demonstrated in the recent economic modelling from consulting group Accenture

<https://www.smh.com.au/technology/nbn-set-to-deliver-400b-to-the-economy-as-debate-rages-over-pricing-20240131-p5f1cn.html>

Yours Sincerely

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9th December 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEnzT1SfWRZfNmAr9IDxNfw/videos>

NBNR - National Broadband Network Report

Emailed via ultra reliable 5G Home Broadband, 600+ Mbps median download speed, 45+ Mbps median upload speed, 15 ms median ping, directly because the copper wire FTTN MTM NBN the LNP provided was a useless pile of unreliable garbage that never worked properly over a period of more than 3 years, dropped out up to 40 times a day and no one could ever fix it and NO ONE from the LNP or the NBN under their Government has ever apologised to the people of Australia for this MTM debacle.

My use of 5G Home Broadband is a DIRECT consequence of the debacle of the LNP's MTM NBN rollout, model and policy and a TCP of \$12,500 wasn't a cost I was prepared to pay for technical, financial and economic incompetence and mismanagement.

Labor's FTTP is now being rolled out in Blackheath and some in Blackheath are now able to order Labor's FTTP helping to move Blackheath out of the copper stone age of the LNP's MTM.

Please note: I have no connection or association now or in the past with the NBN, any of its contractors, any Telecommunications company, or any of its contractors, any service provider or any of its contractors, any political party, any trade union or any media organisation, nor am I privy to any confidential information from the NBN or Government, or any other source.