



REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REVIEW



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Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Committee's inquiry into the National Broadband Network Companies Bill 2010 and the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network Measures – Access Arrangements) Bill 2010.

The Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) was established by the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999* to review the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. In 2008, the Committee conducted an extensive public meetings program throughout regional Australia. During this process the Committee consulted consumers, industry and all levels of government on issues relevant to telecommunications in regional areas.

The Committee has noted that the Australian Government's proposed National Broadband Network will increase the available broadband services to many people in regional Australia. The Committee maintains its view that the National Broadband Network has the potential to transform many aspects of telecommunications service provision in regional areas. The availability of backhaul and high speed broadband services will see regional, rural and remote communities provided with greater opportunity to participate in Australia's social, cultural and economic life. The Committee believes the National Broadband Network will play an important role in supporting this outcome.



On behalf of the Committee, I would be happy to appear before the Senate Committee as part of the public hearing process should it consider it useful. Please contact the Committee's Secretariat on secretariat@rtirc.gov.au to make any necessary arrangements.

Dr William Glasson AO

February 2011