

Senate Standing Committee - Environment, Communications and the Arts

**SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FIBRE DEPLOYMENT) BILL 2010**

OUR POSITION

We are consulting electrical engineers specializing in the design and installation of electricity reticulation in subdivisions throughout Queensland. Our throughput is approximately 8000 lots per year. On behalf of the company, I am pleased to offer the following comments on the subject Bill:

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION MISSING

The Memorandum (Section 7) states that subordinate legislation for comment would be released for comment in parallel in advance of debate on the Bill. That has not happened. It is almost impossible to offer incisive comments without knowing the details of the subordinate legislation. The devil is in the detail. What is the reason for this inordinate delay?

**TELSTRA WILL DOMINATE THE MARKET - COMPETITION SHOULD BE
PROMOTED**

The Memorandum (Proposed Part 20A) acknowledges the need for a new fibre installation to be connected (by backhaul) to the wider telecommunications network. Only Telstra has the facility to make such connections - to its own existing infrastructure - at an affordable price. Telstra will therefore maintain a virtual monopoly on FTTP. They will offer only a complete package: design and construction of all FTTP infrastructure. If it is the Government's intention to promote competitive pricing, developers should be allowed to break up that package. They should be able to choose to have their own contractors design and install passive infrastructure (as they already do with other services), then make that passive infrastructure available to their selected carrier.

NEED TO AVOID COSTLY DUPLICATION OF CONDUITS BY COUNCILS, ETC.

In South East Queensland, some local authorities and Energex require developers to install communications conduits in new subdivisions, then gift them across, as a condition of development approval. This is a costly duplication (triplication) of communications conduits. It is unnecessary and wasteful. It should be prohibited by this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

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