

Inquiry into the role and potential of the National Broadband Network

I write to inform the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications of our activities that would be made considerably more accessible by the National Broadband Network.

The Terms of Reference responded to is:

h) facilitating community and social benefits;

Summary - *I see that **we are on the cusp of 'the tyranny of distance' being dissolved.** I believe the NBN is akin to the Royal Flying Doctor Service except the NBN will benefit everyone, not just those requiring medical treatment.*

I have arrived at this viewpoint from personal experience over the last twelve months that has been gained from being on the committee of the Alternative Technology Association's branch called the 'Melbourne Electric Vehicle Interest Group' which holds monthly meeting pertaining to Electric transport.

Their charter is to;

- provide a link with students.
- work with other organisations and form collaborations
- pool the collective knowledge of the group and to assist individual members with their own projects.

We formed in April last year and since the ATA is a national organisation and we held our meetings at Swinburne University that has an extensive IT infrastructure, we investigated broadcasting our meetings live over the internet.

The end result of this research is we have secured use of hardware produced by a company in Docklands Melbourne called RivusTV. All that is required is a USB internet key with their hardware receiving inputs from a domestic Sony (or any other brand) video camera. (Note – we haven't needed Swinburne University's IT facilities) This setup allows us to broadcast live and also take questions from viewers, from anywhere livebut it does need broadband to access it. The RivusTV people can provide the actual connections speeds required for transmission and reception.

Our last meeting on the 23rd of February, we broadcast from Swinburne University's Hawthorn campus and had two remote viewers put questions in real time to the speakers.

(This and the previous three meetings have been recorded and can be downloaded from portal.rivustv.com/listContentPPP.php?user=12109 for the committee's information.)

The NBN will allow individuals in any community in Australia to participate in our meetings, not just those with access to broadband now or those physically in Melbourne.

This is ***'the tyranny of distance' being dissolved.***

Additional Information for explanation.

The Alternative Technology Association is a national community-based, not-for-profit organisation representing consumers in the renewable energy and the energy efficiency marketplace. The organisation was established in 1980 to empower our community to develop and share sustainable solutions and to promote the uptake of sustainable technologies.

The organisation currently provides service to approximately 6,000 members nationally who are actively engaged with small, medium and large scale renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart meters, electric vehicles and the national electricity market.

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