



Palmer, Tamara (REPS)

From: Mark Freeman
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2011 9:04 PM
To: Committee, IC (REPS)
Subject: Submission to Committee

A short submission to –

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Infrastructure and Communications

I want two things from a national high speed web.

1. **Broadening of knowledge.** I feel confident that when we are presented with the opportunity, universities throughout Australia, and internationally, will offer a sit-in on a lecture for a nominal cost, maybe \$10- or \$20-. I don't want to do a degree, or achieve qualifications from this knowledge because I am too old to use it – but I do want the information. If I want to sit in on a few lectures on geomorphology, or ancient history, or whatever – I want to do it. At present I cannot. Firstly the lecturers on some subjects are much too far removed from little Far North Kuranda and James Cook University in Cairns does not have the necessary spread of knowledge experts. Also you often cannot attend in person because of space restrictions. This potentially makes another significant income stream for our educators.
2. **Community Meetings.** I live in Kuranda and we are a spread out community. Most of our region is “rural retreaters” in style and this means that members in community organisations often live 50 or more kilometers apart. Trying to arrange special meetings of members of various organisations is almost impossible. One case in example is the Kuranda 8 Ball Assn. of which I am president. We have members from Mt Garnet to Palm Cove, Milla Milla to Julaten. There is no real central point and wherever a meeting is scheduled, some would have to drive for 2 hours each way. This weekend I am driving to Townsville for a meeting of Eight Ball North Queensland. So are some 60 other people. This means that about 60 people are driving for about 4 hours each way and paying accommodation. It is impossible to have these meetings on a tele-conference basis because that works for 6, or 8, or sometimes 10 people – but breaks down under the demands of 60 or more. We need to hire facilities and get set-up at specialised venues. That costs hundreds of dollars and even then marginalizes dial-up subscribers. Essentially, it doesn't work at present.

I will certainly use high speed access for lots of other things – but the two above are what I **need**, and what I cannot have at present.

Mark Freeman.

Thursday, February 17, 2011