



**Palmer, Tamara (REPS)**

---

**From:** Steb Fisher  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 February 2011 1:12 PM  
**To:** Committee, IC (REPS)  
**Subject:** Submission to The Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications

Dear Sirs,

I am concerned about the coverage of the NBN in "remote" areas.

Needless to say it is not easy to find out exactly who will and will not have access to fibre connections, though it has been suggested that much of the fibre will use existing sewerage pipes. This would immediately disenfranchise most rural areas (including my own house which is only four kilometres from the Princes Highway).

As energy increases in price and the pressures to move to a low energy economy grow, a major investment in high bandwidth communications to remote areas is an excellent opportunity to reduce energy demand and at the same time greatly improve the ability of remote areas to contribute to the economy and Australian society and for sophisticated "city" services to be delivered to the bush.

It has been suggested that the NBN be "rolled in" rather than "rolled out". This is a real opportunity to support rural areas which have for too long been the forgotten cousins of the city economies. The coverage of the NBN should be much greater than the 93% of Australians announced and much more creative and solutions should be found for those very few who are left out of the fibre network.

Sincerely

Dr. F. S. Fisher

Instead of trying to sustain the way we live,  
we might ask how to create a sustainable way of living.

\* \* \* \* \*

Steb Fisher, The Pathfinder Network Pty Ltd      The Kairos Foundation