

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: – 3.1 Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E190_05

Senator Carr asked on 3 June 2004, EWRE Hansard page 38.

Question:

What is the current status [of the broadband connection to Singapore]? How far below world's best practice is the connection to Singapore at the moment?

Answer:

Connection to Singapore

The current connection from Perth to Singapore is 155Mb. The technology used in this connection is old and so not easily upgradeable. We understand that SingTel Optus has been considering for some time whether investment in a new generation cable between Perth and Singapore would be feasible. Other parts of the SEAMEWE3 cable, from South-east Asia to the Middle East and Western Europe, have recently been, and are being, upgraded to gigabit capacities.

Singapore is a hub for cables, both lit and unlit, with varying capacities. For example, the major connection from Singapore to the west coast of the USA (SingAREN) is currently being upgraded to 1Gb.