

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3. Research, Science and International Education

**Output Group:** 3.1 Research Infrastructure

#### **DEST Question No. E450\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003

#### **Question:**

What is the current capacity? How far below international standards is the connection through to Singapore.....We compare, for instance, our connections across the Pacific. What is the relativity of those two channels?

#### **Answer:**

##### *International Bandwidth*

The Australian Academic Research Network (AARNet) currently maintains two dedicated 155 megabits per second (Mbps) trans-Pacific links between the east coast of Australia to the US west coast.

AARNet also has access to a connection of up to 155 Mbps to Singapore, however networking technology does not require direct links between countries for communications. For example, the communications of a researcher in Western Australia are likely to be carried on the SEAMEWE3 cable via Perth and Indonesia to Singapore, whereas the communications of a researcher in eastern Australia are more likely to travel via the trans-Pacific Southern Cross Network cable to the US West Coast and then back to Singapore. Such decisions are taken automatically by network routers which decide on the communications pathways based on a range of factors, including traffic density and size of files.