

29 JUN 2009

24 June 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

National Broadband Network

I respond to the invitation to provide a submission to the Senate Select Committee and offer the following observations and comments.

In the 21st Century, in a country like Australia, access to high speed broadband is essential to our recovery from the global financial crisis and for economic development, as well as business communication and social interaction.

While a survey by US research company, Strategy Analytics (June 2009), has found that 72 per cent of Australian homes have access to high-speed internet and that Australia ranks 11th in the world for access to broadband internet, serious anomalies and deficiencies still exist for many consumers.

I would cite householders in close proximity to the centre of large metropolitan cities, eg within 15 Km, who wish to install broadband, but where no cables are available in the local exchange. Their only option is to revert to a wireless system. Advice would indicate that contractual disagreements between internet providers have contributed to the scarcity.

On another matter, I query those contractual arrangements between housing estate developers and telecommunication companies that prohibit new home owners from using an internet provider of choice. The only internet provider that may be used is stipulated in the development/purchase agreements.

Accordingly, I stress the need for a high-speed broadband network to be readily and competitively available to businesses and households if Australia is to be, and to be seen as, a country at the forefront of technological innovation, with the infrastructure to support that perception.

Yours sincerely



Bob Such MP JP
Member for Fisher