

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Having recently spent some time in China I know too well the effect that oppressive censorship of the Internet can have on network speeds. Even a high speed VDSL link in my hotel was slow compared to ADSL1 speeds in Australia currently. I believe the Government's NBN Committee needs to investigate the effect that the Government's proposed Clean Feed will have on 100mb speeds.

Secondly I am glad to see the ambitious target of 100mb+ speeds, which seem ludicrous now, but then again so did 8 lanes on the Harbour Bridge when it was opened, and hope the committee will include the social aspects of telepresence, and telecommuting on communities in Australia.

Thirdly I hope the committee will include accessibility in its scope, 100mb FTTH broadband is great, but not that useful if most Australians can't afford it.

Along the same vein, with the current global concern about the financial markets, the social, political & economic impact of such a massive undertaking must be heavily considered. Will as expected the NBN provide hundreds or even thousands of skilled and unskilled jobs?

My experience working with not for profit organisations is that the availability of quality broadband can save them thousands of dollars and hours every year by allowing for telepresence of remote staff (at least, those staff who have broadband currently), online central storage of documents to reduce paper, saving on printing and postage costs, and of course email. With the current (and I expect continued) popularity of sites like youtube, vimeo and bebo we can expect the requirements of broadband to increase.

I believe that where possibly FTTH can coincide with the existing copper technology, though I also believe that once fibre is adopted more the copper wire will be redundant.

Finally and most importantly, I firmly believe that the national FTTH infrastructure should be publically owned, and never sold off. We've all lived through the regulatory and competitive nightmare that has been the privatisation of Telstra, let's not repeat that experience again. I'd like to see a world where the Government is the wholesaler of the Fibre and any company can purchase it from them, regardless of the size of the company. Let the consumer choose who they want to support based on customer support and added value, while the Government continues to provide the world class backbone. The TIO should also be looked into with context to the NBN to ensure that whatever model is used the TIO has the power to enforce fairness and good business practices on the NBN.

Regards,

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