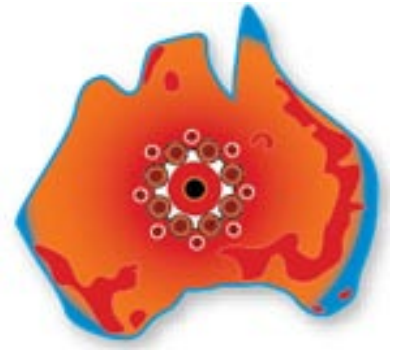


INDIGENOUS REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 2731, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871 | 10A WILKINSON STREET



March 29, 2010

Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

COMMENT ON EXPOSURE DRAFTS OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OWNERSHIP, OPERATIONS, ACCESS OBLIGATIONS AND SERVICES OF THE NBN COMPANY

Regarding the sale of the NBN Co to occur 5 years from declaration of its completion -

- IRCA is concerned that remote Australia will not provide viable returns for future purchasers of NBN Co, thus leading to reduced services
- IRCA would like to see the Government retain a stake in NBN Co beyond its sale, in relation to wholesale service provision of broadband to remote Australia, thus ensuring the ongoing provision of quality, subsidized or affordable broadband to sparsely populated regions. Will the draft legislation allow for these eventualities?
- IRCA would like to see consultation between the Shires, Federal Government, NBN Co and the Remote Indigenous Media sector in relation to the development of an effective working relationship and the development of creative solutions and appropriate policy
- IRCA would like to see the Remote Indigenous Media Sector repositioned under the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to facilitate direct communication with the relevant decision makers (currently under the Dept of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Yours truly,

Linda Chellew
Manager



Australian Government

Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts

IRCA is a peak body supporting remote Indigenous media and communications.