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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008

I am writing in response to the invitation by the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts to comment on the proposed Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (National Broadband Network) Bill 2008.

The Bill proposes to provide the Australian Government with the capacity to obtain telecommunications network information that is not in the public domain from existing carriers. This should deliver sufficient information to develop sound network designs and costings as part of the National Broadband Network initiative.

The definition of "entrusted public official" in the proposed Bill needs to be expanded to include State and Territory government officials so that "protected carrier information" may be disclosed to them under certain restrictions, for example, where State or Territory initiatives are able to align with the National Broadband Network initiative. In this regard the submissions of the Department of Industry and Resources of the Government of Western Australia and the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology of the Government of South Australia are supported.

I thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed Bill.

Yours sincerely

John Lee
Director-General