

From: Craig
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2008 5:50 PM
To: National Broadband Network Taskforce
Subject: National Broadband Network Proposal

To whom it may concern,

Regarding the National Broadband Network, I think much more needs to be done in terms of rural and regional areas around the country. I base this on my experiences in trying to arrange broadband access for my brother in Bendigo, Victoria. As it stands now, the only way to get internet access is through a dial-up modem or a DSL connection (yes, satellite connections are available but they are far too expensive). Both of these require access to a phone line. My brother doesn't have a home phone line and does not require one (which is probably a popular trend these days). I realise that companies are offering package deals that bundle telephone line rental with DSL access, but it seems unfair to force Bendigo (and surrounding) residents into paying for redundant technology and services. Naked DSL and cable are both feasible alternatives and neither of those require a phone line, but as far as I know the only thing stopping them is the lack of infrastructure. Wireless broadband (HSDPA) is also a feasible alternative, but again lacks the infrastructure. Wireless broadband is only accessible from within a 20km radius of Melbourne. Surely it would be possible to provide a fast high-capacity internet connection to a hub in Bendigo and then share it using a HSDPA.

In summary I think the pseudo-requirement of a home phone line for internet access is unfair and, in this day and age, unnecessary given the prevalence of mobile phones. Every ISP should have a 'Naked' option (i.e. no strings attached, no VoIP, no phone number, just the internet). The cost of internet access (especially high-speed, high-capacity plans) is over-priced, given the speeds we get versus the speeds other similarly developed countries get. The additional cost of line rental makes it more expensive and I believe unnecessarily so.

Thanks for your time,
Craig Rogers.