

From: MikeW
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2008 2:08 AM
To: National Broadband Network Taskforce
Subject: National Broadband

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed national broadband network.

I would like to just say that there is little reason to have a high speed network if the price of data is so expensive as to make it unusable for the vast bulk of the Australian population. Currently, Australia has some of the most expensive broadband plans in the world. It also has the lowest data caps in the world. It would appear from public comments from Telstra that if they have any involvement in the national high speed network, it will be totally priced out of everyday use - and the whole rationale for building it will have failed. You have only to look at the fact that some providers are still pushing 200MB capped plans - and then charging an obscene \$150 per gigabyte for additional data. Imagine this type of plan being sold in a high speed environment? It would be a recipe for disaster! If the public are to enthusiastically embrace high speed broadband use, they must have (a) some certainty of price, and (b) that price must be set at a level to encourage extensive take up. Something of the order of 20 to 30 GB per month at a price point not exceeding \$50.00 at todays price would probably be acceptable.

May I also add that since we are constantly told that it is the cost of data from overseas that is the reason for Australia's high prices, why isn't the government looking at expanding the overseas links before, or concurrent with, building a national network? The resultant competition would have to work in the consumer's favour?

Michael Weaver

Perth, WA