

**From:** Norris  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 March 2008 1:01 AM  
**To:** National Broadband Network Taskforce  
**Subject:** National Broadband network comment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been trying to get ADSL for about 6 years. I live 7km from the centre of Gympie in Queensland which is where my exchange is located. Gympie is some 180km north of Brisbane.

About 2 years ago, I was able to get wireless internet due to the Government rebate scheme, which made it commercially viable for companies to bring such technology to areas that could not get ADSL. This is about 30%-50% more expensive than phone ADSL.

About the same time, I was made aware of some technology called Long Line ADSL. This enables ADSL broadband over distances of about 30km from the exchange. This technology was partially implemented by Telstra. I contacted Telstra Country about the possibility of getting this technology and they informed me that they would not roll it out any further until the government gave them some money by way of subsidy. The point I make with this, is that Telstra have had the ability to take ADSL broadband to a lot more people for a long time and quite simply are not interested in doing so without large funding. I even offered to sign up 7 more people near me to make it more enticing for them. Again they were not interested,

Telstra have been installing deficient infrastructure for some time. The fact that new suburbs both in Brisbane and some in Gympie cannot get ADSL is testament to this. I have some friends that recently moved to a new suburb and found out they cannot get ADSL broadband and Telstra have no plans to upgrade any equipment in the near future.

If Telstra were serious about wanting Australia to have high speed broadband, they would help where they could and not be waiting for Government money.

Satellite broadband is not the answer. I know people on this technology and it is slow and expensive. It is not the way forward for the country and most of the funding for this should stop, as it is a short term fix. My wireless company will not connect anymore people to wireless as there is no more funding for it, but they are heavily pushing satellite as they get approx \$2,500 for each connection from the Government. This has become a ridiculous situation. A person recently put a letter in the Courier Mail talking about my wireless company and using VOIP. I spoke to one of the owners of the company and they told me they had received calls from all over Australia enquiring as to how to get connected, due to this letter.

Recently, Internode ([www.internode.on.net](http://www.internode.on.net)) rolled out some wireless technology (3.8ghz) to cover a town in South Australia. This was a town that was not able to get Broadband. For a country the size of Australia, we will not be able to have a single network that allows us to roam around the country. We are simply too big. I believe the way forward for us is wireless technology. Not over the mobile phone network, as this is too expensive and unreliable (with Telstra anyhow). Internode have been able to reach a signal 30km from their tower with wireless. Wireless would be the least expensive infrastructure and provide best coverage. Imagine a few towers in Brisbane, how much population they could cover.

My wireless is of good quality (after some initial problems) and I can use VOIP phone. This has saved me a lot of money with no phone line or associated expense. The fact that I can make all my monthly phone calls for \$15 shows how much we are being overcharged by land line phone companies.

Extreme speed will mean very little in Australia if we have to pay a lot for monthly download limits. There is no point in 12mbps if a download limit is 5 gb per month. And to keep the price to a reasonable level to allow the average person to afford it, will probably mean lowering the speed, increasing monthly limits. This I am sure most people could put up with for a good price.

I have a fair amount of experience at advising people which broadband and VOIP company to use and connecting them. I know about problems with connections and where people in the Gympie area cannot get broadband.

I am more than glad to be contacted for anything further and would attend any meeting/conference/forum you would like.

Thank you for your time.

Paul Norris