

From: Kjaere
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2008 5:55 PM
To: National Broadband Network Taskforce
Subject: submission on the National Broadband Network Request for Proposals

Dear network committee

I seek to ask for leave to allow some of my thoughts on the future of the internet in this great nation of australia.

For far too long we have been at the stranglehold and held to ransom by far too few players which has had the net effect of a greedy attitude to the internet. There has been countless surveys, countless blogs and countless opinions raised about the movement against telstra having the upperhand in all things internet and its delivery to the people of australia.

My view is that Telstra is a telecommunications company which provides telephone, mobile and internet connectivity, but that is all it should do much akin to the electricity distribution, the telephone infrastructure should remain in government hands which "commercial companies" like telstra and like optus and like the many smaller players in the market all actively seek access to that infrastructure all on a level playing field

That any new improvements, or new innovations as to regards to that infrastructure be funded by the government and access to those commercial entities be accorded to tariffs as appropriate all on a equal playing field cost

that the next generation fibre based infrastructure be also in government hands so to as it too can be distributed to companies and then to all australian as fair and as low cost as practical

these things are needed if the Kevin Rudd government promise to ensure that the digital highway is to be current centuries equivalent to the national railway expansion to to be more than a pipe dream but a reality that has a hope of making a difference

We can no longer afford to stifle back productivity, innovation and progress while trying to please the old guard of telstra in artificially maintaining a jewel in the crown of australia's history in business this has no place in today's realistic world, if telstra can not cut it in competition then it deserves no place in today's corporate world and it certainly does not need the government's helping hand

We are in a wait wait world in this land down under and its time the powers that be open up the floodgates to new possibilities and a new world that we all can share in, and explore hopefully to the benefit to all australian

In point form i also illustrate some other thoughts that require some thought

1. Telstra having a control of the infrastructure has causes countless millions of dollars in legal confrontations, money which if spent wisely would have by now paid for a world class internet for all australian and we would have by now focussed our energies on development, innovation and progress.
2. acknowledge that pipelines that link australia to the outside world have to be paid for (this could have been easily achieved by small levies that all who use the network share in its costs)
3. acknowledge that national infrastructure has to be paid for, equally a levy could be applied to cover the cost based on usage differential between commercial and residential users

4. that the best option is for all infrastructure to be controlled by the government which is unbiased on commercial nature and fairly distributes the services for all australians to enjoy and develop
5. that companies that currently distribute the net do so all with the same level playing field access to the infrastructure, what those companies charge for access and what extras they add on to contracts is completely up to them, and all australians can choose which company they wish to gain access to the internet based on the content provided

What we have been doing while some may acknowledge has worked as good as it can, there is no doubt there has been much fiscal waste, It is time we became more efficient and lifted our game and show the world we can do a better job at making the internet work for all people who live here not just those that live in the city or those that can afford it

who knows maybe the legacy of the decisions we make today will make enough difference that the future does look bright and secure for all australians

kind regards

shane mathern