

## **Additional Comments – Australian Greens**

The Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency Bill 2011, the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Universal Service Reform) Bill 2011 and the Telecommunications (Industry Levy) Bill 2011 are the final package of bills establishing the National Broadband Network (NBN) regulatory framework and are supported by the Australian Greens.

These Bills create a new statutory agency to deliver basic voice, payphone and other public interest telecommunications services at an ongoing cost to the taxpayer of \$100 million per year. The Bills mandate reviews in the future to assess how well the Universal Service Obligation is being delivered in an NBN world.

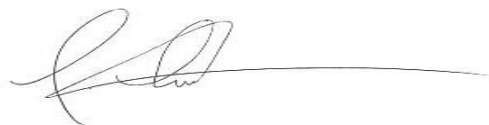
The Australian Greens welcome input to this Senate Inquiry from consumers and end-users who convinced the Committee on the need for a consumer affairs representative on the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA) board.

The Australian Greens believe that the Universal Service Obligation needs to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century it is not merely voice telephony and public payphones but also fast data services that are essential.

Australia's National Broadband Network is one of the most important infrastructure projects this country has seen. Our network, once established, will bring us closer to the world and will be the envy of many countries given that 93 per cent of the population will have fibre coverage to homes, schools and businesses. The other 7 per cent of Australia's population will have data services through wireless + satellite.

Given convergence, the increasing reliance on data services to conduct business and the daily lives of so many Australians, data services have become an essential service just as much as the public telephone.

**Recommendation 1: That the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency (TUSMA) Bill defines a minimum standard of high speed data services and mandates TUSMA to deliver it via fibre to 93 per cent of the population and via wireless and satellite to the remaining 7 per cent.**



**Senator Scott Ludlam**

