

Secretary
Senate Environment Communications and the Arts Committee

I am writing to provide clarity for the committee on an aspect of the submission by Unwired Australia into the committee's current enquiry into the Telecommunications Amendment legislation. In its submission Unwired recommended that:

The Committee should consider whether the NBN Co access regime needs to be introduced before the Parliament passes this part of the legislation.

In evidence before the Committee I explained that the concerns of Unwired are that the access regime as modified by the legislation is entirely appropriate for existing services, but does not cover all the requirements of the NBN. To that end I suggested the committee ask the Government or Department whether there will be additional processes for acquiring services from NBN Co provided in the NBN Co legislation, and if so, to advise the Government that the Committee will closely scrutinise those proposals as part of the NBN Co legislation. Only if the Government is not prepared to provide that advice should the current bill be delayed until the further legislation is available.

For avoidance of doubt, Unwired Australia is not advocating that consideration of the current Bill should be delayed until the NBN Co legislation is debated. The current legislation as explained in evidence corrects the mistakes made by various Governments over 20 years. Unwired Australia has suggested ways the legislation can be improved, but we do not support any delay in the consideration and carriage of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

David Havyatt
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Unwired Australia /L