

**From:** [Robert h](#)  
**To:** [Committee, JSCFADT \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** submission-Inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific region  
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To the committee regarding the Inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific region,

Build a few submarine cables, a Great Firewall of Australia node and a technology hub in Darwin or Townsville. International bandwidth costs in Australia are the most expensive in the world. This severely discourages investment in IT infrastructure, data hosting and co-location services. This disadvantaging Australia in data analysis and traffic routing because it's highly undesirable to route traffic through Australian networks due to the cost. Improved redundancy and capacity will drive down transmission costs for Australia and partner countries. We're 'in the cloud' now but for some reason it all still needs to run through Sydney.

Robert Heron

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