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From: Sent: To: Subject:

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 12:30 PM Committee, IC (REPS) Submission on NBN

To: Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications

Inquiry into the role and potential of the National Broadband Network

I live in a rural area in NSW. We do not have cable broadband available, despite being only less than 40 km from the city of Newcastle.

Broadband has become essential for all persons in Australia since much business is now carried out online. Most applications, forms, submissions and other Government business is now online - for example Centrelink, Electoral commission and Medicare. No doubt this helps to reduce the cost of government administration. Many educational programs are now available online. Email now provides a convenient and rapid method of maintaining contact with friends and relatives.

The widespread availability of the NBN is necessary to overcome Telstra's monopoly on the copper network and their refusal to service areas such as my street.

The ongoing availability of broadband is essential for participation in life.

I submit that the Committee support the rapid roll out of the NBN. Naturally I want my area to be a high priority.

Regards,

Ross Hampton