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From: McCann, Fiona (REPS) on behalf of Committee, Reps (REPS)
Sent: Monday, 21 February 2011 11:30 AM
To: Committee, IC (REPS)
Subject: FW: submission into the role of NBN

From: Bernard Terry
Sent: Monday, 21 February 2011 11:09 AM
To: Committee, Reps (REPS)
Subject: submission into the role of NBN

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications

Inquiry into the role and potential of the National Broadband Network

We live in a new sub-division of Butler, to the north of Perth; we were attracted to the area for a number of reasons, one of which was the supply of 'fiber to the home'.

Fiber optic cable right to the home means we can access high speed broadband internet plus other services. At the time of construction we had the home smart wired which means we don't have a TV antenna on the roof, eliminating local visual pollution and in times of storms we don't have costly antenna damage, multiple computer sockets throughout the house means we don't have to contend with wireless interference. All this means that we are able to stay connected to the world and have access to free flow of information.

Fiber optic cable enabled the developer to create a community intranet which encourages the free flow of ideas and information within the estate via a web site. Once the NBN is in place across the country other communities would be able to establish this means of communication in their local communities.

The considerable down side of fiber optic in our community is that Telstra is the sole ISP for the estate. Fees charged by Telstra are far above that of any other ISP, so it is 'like it or lump it'. An essential part of the NBN must be competition between ISPs.

Currently households in our location have no choice but to use Telstra as their ISP, the distance from a tower prevents the successful use of wireless broadband.

Charges for the connecting to the NBN must be at a price that is affordable to the whole community. Internet connection is no longer a luxury item in household budgets as many Federal, State and Local government instrumentalities have this as their preferred way of doing business. Also students need access to the internet for study purposes. And for many people including those with disabilities, the elderly, people in remote and rural communities, it is a way of keeping connected to the wider community.

Robin & Bernard Terry