

From: Gover, Veronica (SEN)
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2009 6:20 PM
To: Kelly, Alison (SEN); Bond, Meredith (SEN); Committee, Broadband (SEN)
Subject: FW: Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network - Outstanding Question on Notice

Importance: High

Veronica Gover

Senior Research Officer
Senate Select Committee on the National
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-----Original Message-----

From: Holly Raiche [mailto:h.raiche@internode.on.net]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2009 5:16 PM
To: Gover, Veronica (SEN)
Subject: Re: Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network - Outstanding Question on Notice
Importance: High

Dear Ms Glover

I do apologise for not providing the ISOC-AU response sooner.

My response is:

The Internet Society of Australia (ISOC-AU) understands that the intention of the Government has been to fund its election promise of \$4,7 billion the national broadband network through funds from the Building Australia Fund. We also understand that there has been political debate on whether funds from the \$2 billion Communications Fund (funds set aside under the previous Government to be used to respond to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee) should be used as part of the funds for the NBN.

Ultimately, it will be the Parliament that makes a decision on the best use of the Communications Fund - an issue on which we do not have a view.

As our submission states, our policy aims are for all Australians to have affordable access to high speed broadband, particularly those in under served areas in regional and rural australia. And because the

Government policy commitment is that high speed affordable broadband should be provided through fibre to 98% of Australians we have supported that Government policy objective. Again, we leave it up to the Parliament of Australia to determine the most appropriate way to meet that policy objective.

Kind regards

Holly Raiche
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On 24/02/2009, at 3:25 PM, Gover, Veronica (SEN) wrote:

Dear Ms Raiche

I understand that the answer to a question taken on notice during ISOC-AU's appearance before the Committee last year has not as yet been provided. Would it be possible for you to arrange for the answer to be emailed to me by lunchtime Friday 27 February ?

The question was:

QoN No. Hansard Page Reference Senator Question

1	18	Birmingham	Senator BIRMINGHAM —With that, you have hit on regional services. Certainly that is an
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important aspect of what we are looking at here. Obviously with the government putting \$4.7 billion on the table, it is reasonable to think that those less economically viable areas should be given some sort of priority from that level of government funding. But in your submission you have made a statement that you support suitable application of benefits from the communications fund to foster the continuing application of advanced network technologies to Internet users throughout Australia. That speaks of a future role for the communications fund that does not appear to exist if the government is to expend that \$2 billion on building the NBN. Does that mean that the society believes that the government should source its funding from elsewhere and maintain the communications fund?

Ms Raiche—First, my understanding was that the communications fund is a little bit larger than \$2 billion.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—No.

Ms Raiche—No? Okay. Probably I had better think about that answer and come back to you. I will think about the answer and come back to you.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Okay. If you can take that on notice, that would be good.

Regards

Veronica

Veronica Gover

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