

POWERTEL LIMITED

Level 11
55 Clarence Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

DETAILS

GPO Box 3641
Sydney, NSW 2001
Australia

PHONE: 02 8264 3888
FAX: 02 8264 3777
ABN: 69 001 760 103



9 June 2004

Mr Michael McLean
The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Reference Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McLean

I refer to a discussion between Senate Lundy and Telstra on 24 May 2004 regarding Exchange Service Area (ESA) information (excerpt below).

Senator LUNDY—Going back to the issue of the broadband register and the provisioning of exchanges for ADSL, does Telstra sell information to your competitors about what I would describe as the reach of a given exchange or the services you are capable of providing in an exchange service area?

Mr Pinel—I have never heard of that.

Mr Scales—Not that I am aware of.

Senator LUNDY—You do not charge for basic technical information about what your copper network looks like?

Mr Scales—No, we do not do that. In our wholesale business we are out there trying to sell that facility. It is not in our interests to try—

Senator LUNDY—You do not sell information about it?

Mr Scales—We do not sell that information.

As a contributor to the Senate Enquiry on broadband, PowerTel Limited would like to take this opportunity to comment on some of the statements made by Telstra. It has been PowerTel's experience that the obtaining of ESA information from Telstra has been a long and arduous process. PowerTel has sought this information for a considerable period of time from Telstra and found it excessively difficult to obtain. Notwithstanding this, Telstra has recently provided PowerTel with ESA data however, in doing so, Telstra required an acknowledgment from PowerTel that the provision of future ESA data would be subject to new terms and conditions, including the imposition of charges.

This information is critical, not only from a business planning perspective but also in day to day operations, where the availability of accurate boundary information is vital for the provision of services to end users. Any restriction of access to this type of information will necessarily have a detrimental impact on the ability of PowerTel and competitive service providers to compete and hence the proliferation of broadband services in Australia.

PowerTel would be happy to provide further detail if required.

Yours sincerely

Rajiv Jayawardena
Manager, Carrier Relations & Regulatory Affairs
PowerTel Limited