



Future-proofing Telecommunications in Non-Metropolitan Australia



“We are where we are”.

Working within realistic frameworks.



Our Realities

- A fully privatised Telstra.
- Market failure exists in parts of non-metropolitan Australia.
- Telecommunications services in non-metropolitan Australia are generally uncompetitive.
- Current infrastructure arrangements contribute to uncompetitive services.
- Telecommunications are vital to the social and economic development of non-metropolitan areas.



Competition



Barriers to Competition in Non-metropolitan areas

- New service providers face a situation where the major service provider already has a high percentage of customers and own the network.
- Cost of building infrastructure prohibitive.
- Leasing infrastructure expensive.



Infrastructure



Option A

- Optic fibre rollout to non-metropolitan Australia.
- Government control the infrastructure and lease it to service providers. Or private company controls infrastructure providing it does not have a retail interest in telecommunications service provision.
- This option upgrades non-metropolitan telecommunications to a world standard and provides an “even playing field” for services providers.



Option B

- Wireless infrastructure rollout to non-metropolitan Australia.
- Government/Private control the infrastructure and lease it to service providers.
- This option upgrades non-metropolitan telecommunications to a world standard and provides an “even playing field” for services providers.



Option C

- Community Audit of telecommunications needs.
- Customer aggregation.
- Government funds necessary infrastructure to encourage service delivery.
- Local Government owns telecommunications infrastructure as asset.



Conclusion

- Competition and infrastructure are interconnected.
- Healthy competition is vital for service delivery in non-metropolitan areas.
- Government has a role to assist in developing telecommunications infrastructure.