

Liberals would drop Broadband Network in government

Media Statement - 7th April 2009

The Liberal Party aims to condemn Australia as a broadband backwater by dropping the Government's historic National Broadband Network, should it win the next election.

When asked on Sky News today if the Liberal Party would continue this project if they won the next election Shadow communications spokesman Senator Nick Minchin's answer included the admission that, "we won't do that. We're not going to put Australian tax-payers money at risk."

"The Liberal Party put forward 18 failed broadband plans during their eleven and a half years in Government and managed to do nothing to improve services," the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, said today.

"Nick Minchin has clearly demonstrated the Liberal's utter disdain for telecommunications consumers by objecting to this historic infrastructure project."

"By opposing the National Broadband Network, the Liberals continue to demonstrate a complete miscomprehension about the importance of broadband for our current and future economies."

"The National Broadband Network will support jobs now and jobs in the future. It will underpin productivity gains and improved services such as health and education."

"If the Liberal party wins the next election their first act will be to scrap the biggest job supporting infrastructure project in Australian history."

"The new National Broadband Network will be the single largest nation building infrastructure project in Australian history."

"The Liberal Party and Nick Minchin need to stop living in the past and join the broadband revolution."

Nick Minchin is on his own in his criticism of the National Broadband Network. Leading industry figures have thrown their support behind this project.

- iiNet Managing Director, Michael Malone

"This is the best of all possible outcomes and will ensure Australians have access to fast, affordable and competitive broadband."

- Australian Local Government Association President, Geoff Lake

"Today's announcement is great news for local communities given the vital role broadband will play in the competitiveness of the regions."

- Terria Chairman, Michael Egan

"It is a fantastic announcement. A real nation-building announcement and a critical piece of major micro-economic reform."

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