



Senator
Steve Fielding
Leader of Family First



MEDIA RELEASE

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RUDD'S BROADBAND PLAN FLAWED

The Rudd government's \$43 billion broadband plan is an example of the government grasping at straws because its election policy announcement can't be met.

"The government has had all the experts tender for this broadband network and been told by a panel of experts that 18 months after beginning the process it has to start again. What a waste of time.

"This is a government who continually reminds us of the global recession, a government that has splashed out with \$900 cheques to thousands of Australians as part of its stimulus package but now wants private funding to help pay for an election promise.

"The question is – should the Future Fund be spent on this network or would it be better spent on securing Australia's water future? Shouldn't that question be put to the Australian taxpayer before the government starts spending the money?

"This plan by the Rudd government has fundamental flaws. First, where's the money coming from? Will this network be obsolete by the time it's completed? Can it be done?

"The Rudd government has demonstrated that it has a first class honours degree in massive public spending. Perhaps they need to go back to school and get another degree in public accountability.

"And why is this plan being rolled out in Tasmania first? Wouldn't it make far better sense to implement this first in Victoria, where millions more people would be able to benefit from this?

"In these difficult times, the government needs to be more accountable with taxpayer's money. We need to know exactly where the money is coming from and at what cost to Australians."

For media enquiries phone Jo Robertson 0409 550 446

www.stevefielding.com.au

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