

7 April 2009

Greens Will Scrutinise Broadband Network in Senate

The Australian Greens will be scrutinising the Government's plan for a National Broadband Network when it comes through the Senate later this year.

Australian Greens Leader Senator Bob Brown said the National Broadband Network (NBN) was an important plank in building Australia's new green economy and had the potential to help the fight against climate change - but it must be achieved while protecting the environment and taxpayer funds.

"The Greens have been advocating the Government go it alone on the NBN."

"The NBN will allow a great shift of jobs and services from the cities to rural and regional Australia, and they will overwhelmingly be green jobs."

"It will allow more Australians to drive a mouse to work instead of a car."

"The fact that the Government has had to go it alone is evidence that the privatisation of Telstra in the Howard years has failed Australia in it's time of need."

But the Greens will be ensuring that the \$4.7b. initial outlay by the Government - as well as exposure to the \$43b. total investment - is justified, accounted for, and in the best interests of taxpayers.

"The Greens will be keeping the Government accountable on the timetable for the roll-out of the network."

The Greens will also be ensuring that the needs of Australia's rural and regional communities, local government and not-for-profits sectors are taken into account.

"And crucially, the Greens will be making sure that our existing environmental and planning laws are not trashed in a headlong rush to roll out the broadband network - in particular as infrastructure is rolled out in local communities," said Senator Brown.

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