



Communicate, Collaborate, Innovate

Australian
Telecommunications
Users Group

Media Release

ATUG finished its Telco Reform Roadshow in Perth on Thursday. The Roadshow was an opportunity for ATUG members to understand and discuss the Telco Reform package now before Parliament and to begin discussions on end user requirements in an NBN world.

Discussions were held in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

ATUG sees the package as the most significant change to telco regulation since 1997. In many aspects the package gives practical effect and teeth to policies driving for stronger competition and better consumer safeguards in the current copper network era.

ATUG believes these changes are needed now to deliver better outcomes for end users - better prices, service and innovation. The opportunity for regional areas to get the full benefits of competition from the copper network should be delivered well ahead of the NBN.

On the Structural Separation discussions between Telstra and the Government, ATUG supports a win-win outcome. This would create certainty for all parties and be a win for end users.

In the event there is no agreement, ATUG sees the proposed robust Functional Separation as a win for end users. Its introduction will see much stronger competition for the benefit of end users including those in regional areas.

ATUG supports changes to ACCC powers to set prices up front for regulated services - these powers will reduce delays and bring greater choice for all end users.

In parts of Australia where competition is strong end users have seen lower prices for broadband services and higher speeds. The Telco Reform Package will bring these opportunities to end users in regional communities.

Changes to Consumer Safeguards will mean end users can now choose new technologies for their Universal Service and know that these services will meet the expected Service Standards and Performance Benchmarks.

ATUG sees more opportunities and benefits for all parties - industry, end users and regulators. ATUG supports quick passage of this important legislation.

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