06 May 2010

BOHLIN’S UNBELIEVABLE BROADBAND BOO-BOOS

Minister for Information Communication Technology Policy (ICT) Karl Hampton has called for the Member for Drysdale Ross Bohlin to apologise to the people of the Territory for opposing the National Broadband Network and publicly thank the NT Government for its proactive work in securing the project.

“The member for Drysdale continuously displays complete ignorance of the basics of this important area and contempt for the people of the Territory in opposing this historic infrastructure investment.

“Thanks to the lobbying efforts of the NT Government, the Commonwealth and NextGen are as we speak laying more than 2300km of fibre optic cable to connect Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and now Alice Springs to the eastern and southern seaboard.

“This $75m investment will create 200 jobs in the construction phase and, when complete, mean cheaper, faster, more reliable internet for Territorians.

“Led by the technological gurus Bohlin and Tollner, the CLP has consistently opposed this visionary, nation-building initiative on the grounds that it:

- is a waste of money
- will not reach 100% of Territorians like ‘wireless’ technology would; and
- will not increase competition and reduce prices.

“The member for Drysdale even quoted a fictional body called the ‘Australian Communication Commission’ as responsible for setting prices for ICT services as proof that the prices would not come down under this project.

“The release today of an NBN implementation study by internationally respected Mckinsey & Company and KPMG should put the final nail in the coffin of the CLP’s archaic thinking.”
“The report confirms what I have been saying all along; high-speed broadband for all Territorians is realistic, and can be built on a financially viable basis with affordable prices for consumers.

Key findings of the report include:

- The NBN will deliver world class broadband infrastructure to all Territorians;

- Fibre to the premises is widely accepted as the optimal future-proof technology with wireless broadband a complementary rather than a substitute technology;

- Next generation wireless and satellite services will deliver peak speeds of at least 12 Mbps (and much higher for many wireless users).

- Satellite services will deliver average data rates more than 20 times higher than most users of these technologies experience today, and much higher than average DSL usage today.

- The Government can expect a return on its equity investment sufficient to fully cover its cost of funds;

“The evidence is overwhelming that the NBN is a smart investment in our nation that will pay for itself and bring the Territory storming into the digital age,” said Mr Hampton

“Its time the Member for Drysdale and his party explained exactly why they oppose a project that will bring cheaper and faster services, jobs, education and health benefits to Territorians.”

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