ROLLING OVER ON BROADBAND
Ross Bohlin MLA
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The Henderson Government must explain to Territorians why it has so unquestioningly thrown its support behind the $43 billion National Broadband Network.

Shadow Technology Policy Minister, Ross Bohlin, said the broadband network is the most expensive infrastructure project in Australia’s history – and should be scrutinised in detail by all Australians.

"Instead, what we have is the Henderson Government rolling over like a little puppy dog while Kevin Rudd gives it a tickle," Mr Bohlin said.

"We have the single most expensive infrastructure project ever attempted in this country, and the Henderson Labor Government is happy just to go along with its political masters in Canberra."

Mr Bohlin said recent examples of Federal Government wastage in the form of the home insulation rebate scheme; the education revolution and SIHIP are prime examples of why Territory Labor should not just accept the NBN without question.

He said Technology Minister, Karl Hampton, should tell Territorians:

• Who will receive the fibre optic coverage;
• How the fibre will be delivered to Territory homes;
• What the impact of the roll-out will be on householders in the main centres;
• The cost per month of the 100Mbps service;
• Who will foot the bill for the retro-fit of the fibre end node within the home; and
• The cost and maintenance of the new in-house fibre optic phone systems that will be required to comply with the Universal Service Obligation.

"The Minister says the NBN will create 200 jobs during its roll-out in the Northern Territory," Mr Bohlin said.

"He should clarify whether those will be new positions in the Territory or whether they will just be workers from the roll-out in Queensland.

"Mr Hampton’s lack of technological savvy is a concern, given the enormity of the proposed network.

"Even though the full title of his portfolio is Minister for Information, Communication and Technology Policy, Karl Hampton responded to a question I asked during last year’s Estimates that mobile phone coverage was not his responsibility."

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