

ADSL still being used in preference to Skymuster

I live in an area just 7-8km from a town that has NBN FTTC. This residential area was developed relatively recently (around 20 years ago) and so the copper cabling is of good quality.

Most areas surrounding the town have access to NBN Fixed Wireless, but due to the hilly terrain here there is no signal. The only NBN option is Skymuster Satellite but many residents here require larger download allowances for an affordable cost, especially during pandemic lockdowns when we are told to work from home. For these reasons ADSL is still widely used in these areas, but we are stuck on slow ADSL 1 speeds (up to 8mb/s) due to the local sub-exchange.

Areas like this should have NBN FTTN or FTTC made available. The relatively modern copper cabling and pits means the rollout of FTTN should be cheaper to the taxpayer than supplying Satellite services.

My Proposal

NBN FTTN or FTTC services should be extended to areas that:

- Don't have access to fibre or NBN Fixed Wireless
- Currently (or until recently) had ADSL services

The areas with copper ADSL cabling and pits should be upgraded because:

- It would be a cheaper rollout of FTTN or FTTC
- Residents are used to fixed-line broadband and shouldn't be stuck on lesser services
- ADSL providers will eventually discontinue these services

Summary

NBN fixed line fibre services should be extended to all areas that have ADSL infrastructure if they have no access to NBN Fixed Wireless.

This would bring thousands of residences up to the standard of fast broadband that is intended by the NBN rollout, and open up options to work from home (such as during pandemic outbreaks).

K Finlayson

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