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Big numbers

- 1,193,226 threads
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- 9,190 broadband plans
- 948 modems & routers
- 46,552 features filled

User #32349 7157 posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

As part of the NBN program the government has allocated \$250M towards funding backhaul to areas where there is no competitive service and therefore no sensible (non-monopoly) backhaul pricing ...

As part of the Australian Government's commitment to deliver a National Broadband Network that will provide superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces, it is investing up to \$250 million to immediately address backbone blackspots throughout regional Australia.

This will:

- * deliver an immediate economic stimulus;
- * reduce the cost of broadband services; and
- * put in place key infrastructure for the roll-out of the National Broadband Network.

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/communications_for_business/funding_programs_and_support/national_broadband_network/national_broadband_network_Regional_Backbone_Blackspots_Program

These comments by Nextgen sound very encouraging ...

On the subject of the regional black-spot initiative, Mr Sykes dismissed claims by analysts that the program was not viable, pointing out that Nextgen's existing network meant it would have to roll out comparatively little new fibre. He said there were 250 towns already within five kilometres of Nextgen fibre.

<http://business.theage.com.au/business/nextgen-wont-sell-network-20090525-bkuk.html>

... an additional 250 towns would be a great boost for getting competitive services into regional areas

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 12am AEST

User #32349 7157 posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

Nextgen believes it could cover nearly 90% of the population with extensions to its trunk fibre ...

Mr Sykes said that the company, which already owns an extensive fibre-optic backbone, would present the federal Government with a number of scenarios for spending the money, including extensions to its main fibre trunk into Darwin and parts of Western Australia.

He estimated that Nextgen's coverage currently hovered at about 80 and 90 per cent of the population, and could be pushed to the higher end of that figure if trunk extensions were approved.

<http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,24897,25536857,15306,00.html>

Optus may also make a bid for the regional backhaul project

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 7am AEST

User #55106 1497 posts
BeenThere
Whirlpool Enthusiast

Freycinet writes...

Nextgen believes it could cover nearly 90% of the population with extensions to its trunk fibre ...

Let's rationalise this slightly! The Metro covers about 65% - 75% of the population depending on how it is viewed so let's settle on say 70%. This leaves the Regional, Rural and Remote areas to hold a nominal 30% of the population.

The Regional is nominally all the non-capital state cities: ie Newcastle, Toowoomba, Canberra, Townsville, Rockhampton, Ballarat, Bendigo, Kalgoorlie, Darwin, Wollongong.....Dubbo, Orange, Albury, Wangaratta, Bendigo, Griffith, Bathurst,...Kempsey, Sale, Cooma, Bourke etc. Now this covers about 20% of the population.

So by just looking at the Metro and Regional we have covered about 70 + 20 = 90% and whalla - all these cities already have major backhaul (Backbone) fibre through them, and in most cases it is more than duplicated, and one of the network duplicators is Nextgen!

So what is missing? Well, the coastal areas seem to be well connected with inter-capital Backbones, but when you go inland the Backhaul connections are sparse (and very unprofitable). No commercial competitive telecomms venture is going to attack this problem because this is not lucrative.

Putting this another way: Nextgen basically said it was highly unprofitable for it to provide extensions to its current Backhaul footprint to cover the remaining 10%, and it is not going to think outside the square.

When Todd put the telegraph from Adelaide to Darwin, there was a competitive bid from Queensland, to run telegraph from Brisbane to Darwin – (to connect with 'mother England'). The South Australian Government pushed ahead and funded it, and outback Queensland remained outblack and isolated.

Thinking a little outside the square, the big missing Backbone link is the Optical Fibre connection from Darwin to the major population centres in Australia via the east coast outback, which would probably pass through: **Darwin, Tennant Creek, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Winton, Longreach, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Bourke, Cobar, Hillston, Griffith, Hay, Mildura, Broken Hill, Peterborough, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln.**

If you took this as a 'competitive spine' and then connected Backhaul spurs from this national Backbone towards the coast from most of these localities, then not only would you pick up almost all of the 'blackspots' on the eastern half of the Australian continent, but this Backbone would provide some very serious competition for through and inter-capital traffic.

[Optus may also make a bid for the regional backhaul project](#)

Sure, Optus can bid to design and construct – but it is to be owned and operated by NBN as a not for profit infrastructure.

Unfortunately, competition is incredibly inefficient (highly uneconomic) with infrastructure finances, so the competitive regime only survives where business is very lucrative, and in regards to telecomms infrastructure, this is the only the Metro in Australia!

If the NBN really wants to resolve 'Black Spots' then it too will have to engineer its infrastructure well outside and beyond the myoptic competitive regime 'six-sided box'!

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 8am AEST

User #8261 206 posts

fatang

Forum Regular

Correct me if I am wrong, but Nextgen does not go north of Brisbane. This leaves the Sunshine Coast (250000 people without tourist numbers added), Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns without competition for backbone services. Where I live on the Sunshine Coast, Telstra is the only provider of DSLAM services (of course it is reselling to other ISPs).

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 10am AEST

User #55106 1497 posts

BeenThere

Whirlpool Enthusiast

[fatang writes...](#)

Correct me if I am wrong, but Nextgen does not go north of Brisbane. This leaves the Sunshine Coast (250000 people without tourist numbers added), Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns without competition for backbone services. Where I live on the Sunshine Coast, Telstra is the only provider of DSLAM services (of course it is reselling to other ISPs).

Well, apart from **Telstra** there is **Optus**, which I believe has purchased optical fibre from the power infrastructure in Queensland (**Powerlink?**), and then there is **Queensland Rail** which has a very large optical fibre footprint that runs from Brissie to at least Townsville – if not Cairns, so I don't think that the Queensland east coast is too short of duplicated optical fibre infrastructures, meanwhile the inland has almost nothing!

User #32349 7157 posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

BeenThere writes...

The Metro covers about 65% – 75% of the population depending on how it is viewed so let's settle on say 70%. This leaves the Regional, Rural and Remote areas to hold a nominal 30% of the population.

Sounds about right ...

<http://www.accc.gov.au/content/item.phtml?itemId=836032&nodeId=228fdcab24856c0004b560b388d97c0f&fn=Snapshot%20of%20Telstra%27s%20customer%20access%20network%E2%80%94September%202007.pdf>

Putting this another way: Nextgen basically said it was highly unprofitable for it to provide extensions to its current Backhaul footprint to cover the remaining 10%, and it is not going to think outside the square.

Err – No ...

Mr Sykes said that the company, which already owns an extensive fibre-optic backbone, would present the federal Government with a number of scenarios for spending the money, **including extensions to its main fibre trunk into Darwin and parts of Western Australia.**

... they are suggesting spurs AND extensions to the main fibre trunk

Unfortunately, competition is incredibly inefficient (highly uneconomic) with infrastructure finances, so the competitive regime only survives where business is very lucrative, and in regards to telecomms infrastructure, this is the only the Metro in Australia!

Yes that's true – regional / rural & remote will always need government funding to support affordable broadband because its uneconomic for commercial operators. So the government funding of \$250M to support competitive affordable backhaul at sensible prices is most welcome. Duplication is inefficient, but sometimes its the only way to break monopoly pricing by Telstra. As a side benefit duplication can also provide redundancy over geographically diverse paths.

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 1pm AEST

User #32349 7157 posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

fatang writes...

Correct me if I am wrong, but Nextgen does not go north of Brisbane

That would appear to be the case ...

Our Network

<http://www.nextgennetworks.com.au/network.htm>

Which way would they go to extend to Darwin ??

- via Brisbane/Rockhampton or via Adelaide/Alice Springs

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 1pm AEST

User #55106 1497 posts
BeenThere
Whirlpool Enthusiast

Freycinet writes...

Err – No ...

Mr Sykes said that the company, which already owns an extensive fibre-optic backbone, would present the federal Government with a number of scenarios for spending the money, including extensions to its main fibre trunk into Darwin and parts of Western Australia.

... they are suggesting spurs AND extensions to the main fibre trunk

Bit picky!! Spurs – absolutely essential off the main backbones. Extensions – what are there if they are not 'Spurs' – new 'Backbones'?

Spend it, its gone – Invest it, and you will get a return for its lifetime!

Why would this Mr Sykes want to spend where he should be investing?? (Is he an Economist – that would make sense in concentric economic circles?)

anchor
posted 2009-May-26, 2pm AEST

User #32349 7157 posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

BeenThere writes...

Bit picky!! Spurs – absolutely essential off the main backbones. Extensions – what are there if they are not 'Spurs' – new 'Backbones'?

Read the article ...

He said there were 250 towns already **within five kilometres** of Nextgen fibre. -sounds like a spur to me

Mr Sykes said that the company, which already owns an extensive fibre-optic backbone, would present the federal Government with a number of scenarios for spending the money, including extensions to its **main fibre trunk** into Darwin and parts of Western Australia.
- sounds like a backbone to me

So they are proposing to do both, ie investing for the future

anchor
posted 2009-
May-26, 3pm
AEST

User #34769 68 posts
matm
Forum Regular

BeenThere writes...

[Spend it, its gone – Invest it, and you will get a return for its lifetime!](#)

It's not a direct quote – it's a journalist describing a conversation. Many of us would assume spend/invest have the same meaning if taken in the context of the article.

But I think the part that many people don't understand is that the initial investment is just the building of the infrastructure, you still need to maintain the infrastructure. Having a listed company invest in building and maintaining the network may mean there is never a return on the money spent. The maintenance costs for these networks are significant.

[Why would this Mr Sykes](#)

I would suggest that Phil Sykes has a pedigree for building and operating successful telecommunications businesses matched by only a small number of people in Oz. Backhaul providers aren't a charity and the parent of his company knows all about backhaul carriers going bust. On the other hand, with a sister company that builds fibre networks and a construction parent company, the building of additional optical network to black-spots has some legs with these guys ...

My 2c anyway ...

anchor
posted 2009-
May-26, 3pm
AEST

User #55145 15491 posts
..RC..
Whirlpool Forums Addict

So who would own the fibre built with the \$250 million....

The government is quite foolish if it thinks if it provides backhaul the isp's will come running into small tinpot towns to provide services...

No one will invest with the threat of a government subsidised and built fibre/wireless network going ahead in a few years time...

Why would you considering Telstra already has already most likely got the available market signed up with DSL and NextG..

anchor
posted 2009-
May-26, 3pm
AEST

User #55106 1497 posts
BeenThere
Whirlpool Enthusiast

Freycinet writes...

[Duplication is inefficient, but sometimes its the only way to break monopoly pricing by Telstra. As a side benefit duplication can also provide redundancy over geographically diverse paths.](#)

The Telstra 'monopoly' would never have been there if the USA Government (under the guise of the WTO) didn't force our Federal Government to sell off telecomms into the private sector to cause this debarcle in the first case (spilt milk!)

One of the standard engineering practices in backhaul engineering is to provide diverse geographic redundancy wherever possible, and make it such that these extra overheads pick up other Exchange Switching Areas (ESAs) and also give them network connection redundancy.

This practice was done well before 1975, but there was also a very strong post 1930s depression mentality in exec management to keep everybody employed above being 'efficient' and so much of the installation work was 'piece-meal' instead of total builds (like has been done since about 1985).

As pointed out in the "World" Broadband Conference in Sydney last February, duplication does not break the back of Telstra – or whomever has the original monopoly!

What really happens is the second carrier comes in with their non-diverse geographically duplicated system, and it comes in with the near enough to same wholesale price as the original service provider – a virtual price maintenance, and neither are going to undercut each other. But then a third carrier sees the money and comes in and provides a triplicated network that is also not geographically diverse enough to be useful, and can't get customers to pay the way, so it provides the capacity at a very much reduced rate and they all lose bigtime.

So there you have it! A triplicated system where only one is required, and no geographic diversity – all thanks to the greed of competition – they all lose. This spells out very loudly that all essential infrastructure must not be in the competitive regime, and the sooner our Government can get us out

anchor

		in the competitive regime, and the sooner our Government can get us out of this telecomms infrastructure mess, the better!	posted 2009- May-26, 3pm AEST
User #34769 68 posts mattm Forum Regular	Freycinet writes...	So they are proposing to do both, ie investing for the future I wasn't going to go into it but that's spot on. A trunk to Darwin hardly fits into the category of a 'spur'!	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 3pm AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	BeenThere writes...	What really happens is the second carrier comes in with their non-diverse geographically duplicated system, and it comes in with the near enough to same wholesale price as the original service provider That wont happen in this case The backhaul will have to be at sensible affordable prices (ie not Telstra monopoly prices) – otherwise its a non-starter	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 3pm AEST
User #55106 1497 posts BeenThere Whirlpool Enthusiast	mattm writes...	Having a listed company invest in building and maintaining the network may mean there is never a return on the money spent. The maintenance costs for these networks are significant. 2c.. Opportunity Cost comes to mind. Purchasing the building in an investment, and when they leave they can sell it and get capital return. Renting is a spend, and when they leave they have nothing left, nothing... Maintenance costs are infintesimal compared to 30 years ago (less than 1% of what they were then). Maintenance costs these days is virtually insignificant compared to purchasing and setting up the equipment – that is why there are so many private 'competitive' vultures in for the kill – and still they are too greedy and go broke!	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 3pm AEST
User #55106 1497 posts BeenThere Whirlpool Enthusiast	mattm writes...	I wasn't going to go into it but that's spot on. A trunk to Darwin hardly fits into the category of a 'spur'! In my language from Nhulunbuy to Darwin is a spur!	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 3pm AEST
User #256965 722 posts yourBroadband Whirlpool Enthusiast		Is it just me or does "Regional Black-spot Initiative" just scream opel?	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 4pm AEST
User #193267 1642 posts LemMotlow Whirlpool Enthusiast		Oh Rudd & Conroy finally moving? Hmm this seems to remind me of the programme the coalition were to roll out just before they got dumped by the dummies. Seem to recall that they had allocated around 650 million for it. Isn't that 400 million more than the goose has allowed?	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 4pm AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict		It seems there is quite a bit of interest in the Regional Blackspot project ... The Department also confirmed it had received over 60 submissions for the regional backhaul blackspots scheme, for which it has fast-tracked \$250 million. Conroy said he had held face to face meetings and teleconferences with in excess of 40 different parties, including NextGen, Optus, Telstra, AAPT, and AARNet. ISPs including iiNet and Internode, and infrastructure operators such as rail and utilities, have also expressed interest, he said. http://www.itnews.com.au/News/104121,rudd-to-pay-11-billion-of-43-billion-nbn.aspx ... hopefully we should see some of the submissions on the DBCDE site in the near future	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 7pm AEST
User #68448 822 posts nonprophet Whirlpool Enthusiast	..RC.. writes...	Why would you considering Telstra already has already most likely got the available market signed up with DSL and NextG.. Gee.. maybe because rural residents have been screwed by Telstra over and over, and would jump ship at first chance? And puhleeze, i dare someone to plot out the boring old "people are happy with Telstra" line. Double dare ya. CDMA. Piss poor service. Sometimes a year or more to get faults fixed, if ever. They don't have friends in the outback, i'm telling ya.	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 7pm AEST
User #85317 298 posts miah Forum Regular		Next they will tell me that wireless can do backhaul !) http://www.itnews.com.au/News/103867,startech-buys-unwired-wimax-backhaul.aspx	anchor posted 2009- May-26, 8pm AEST
User #95840 108 posts ShaunDXB	Freycinet writes...	hopefully we should see some of the submissions on the DBCDE site in	

Forum Regular

... hopefully we should see some of the submissions on the DBCDE site in the near future

I was just hoping the same thing, and just checked ...

Submissions available for viewing:

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/communications_and_technology/consultation_and_submissions/regional_backbone_blackspots_program_submissions

anchor
posted 2009-
May-26, 10pm
AEST
edited 2009-
May-26, 10pm
AEST

User #32349 7157
posts

Freycinet

Whirlpool Forums Addict

BeenThere writes...

Thinking a little outside the square, the big missing Backbone link is the Optical Fibre connection from Darwin to the major population centres in Australia via the east coast outback, which would probably pass through: Darwin, Tennant Creek, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Winton, Longreach, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Bourke, Cobar, Hillston, Griffith, Hay, Mildura, Broken Hill, Peterborough, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln.

Looks like Nextgen read your mind BeenThere ...

Taking these factors into consideration as well as considering the population of all of Australia's regional locations, Nextgen submits that the following locations should be at the top of the Backhaul Blackspots priority list;

- Darwin
- Alice Springs
- Mount Isa
- Geraldton
- Mildura
- Albany
- Warmambool
- Broome
- Karratha
- Port Hedland
- Broken Hill
- Emerald
- Colac

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/113440/NextGen.pdf

anchor
posted 2009-
May-26, 11pm
AEST

User #246181 306
posts

Charlie Oscar

Forum Regular

Next they will tell me that wireless can do backhaul !)

Wireless transmission has been used for backhaul for many, many years.

anchor
posted 2009-
May-27, 11am
AEST
edited 2009-
May-27, 11am
AEST

User #32349 7157
posts

Freycinet

Whirlpool Forums Addict

Nortel has an interesting "high level" table of the current estimated bandwidth for each of the major regions in Australia ...

```

:
: Total NSW      3250.12
: Total VIC      2431.29
: Total QLD      1947.51
: Total WA       979.20
: Total SA       716.05
: Total ACT      236.51
: Total TAS      218.97
: Total NT       88.86
: TOTAL (Gbps)  9868.52
:

```

Whilst summing the traffic from every site together as has been done is an overly simplistic method, it shows in a very stark manner the scale of the backhaul network required, on day one.

This has massive implications to the overall design of the backhaul network, specifically around capacity planning, including backhaul from the regional black spots. A future-proof network will require backhaul capacities exceeding what Nortel has modeled above; studies from various sources have shown that the amount of Internet traffic generated is forecast to increase by up to 300% in the next 5 years.

http://www.dbcde.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/113439/Nortel.pdf

anchor
posted 2009-
May-27, 2pm
AEST

User #55106 1497
posts

BeenThere

Whirlpool Enthusiast

Freycinet writes...

Looks like Nextgen read your mind BeenThere ...

More likely they read my submission to the NBN some months/year ago

http://www.archive.dbcde.gov.au/2009/april/national_broadband_network/submissions/Malcolm_Moore.pdf (or was it to the RTR)

http://www.rtirc.gov.au/__data/assets/text_file/0017/90170/RTIRC_Report.rtf that included a suggestion to put in a backbone roughly along those Regional centres and have China etc connect from Darwin. This Backhaul backbone would then provide the synergy of a very high capacity diverse primarily inland path for the current main inter-capital routes, and and spurs off this would comfortably feed almost all of the Rural and Remote localities on the eastern half of the continent.

If you sketch it on an Australian map (or check the NBN submission link

If you sketch it on an Australian map (or check the NBN submission link, page 25) then you will see that it would provide about 18 high capacity spur linkages to about 18 coastal cities in Qld, NSW, Vic and SA, and these high capacity spurs will provide the backhaul capacity needed to get us through the next 20 or so years with high speed Broadband capability west of the Dividing Range, and diverse geographic backup where Nextgen and Telstra do not really go! :)

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -27, 4pm
AEST

User #55106 1497
posts
BeenThere
Whirlpool Enthusiast

Chris_O writes...

Wireless transmission has been used for backhaul for many, many years.

Yes! And Optical Fibre replaced almost all the wireless backhaul in Australia in about 6 years from 1987 to 1993 – because OF was far more reliable and a bit cheaper.

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -27, 4pm
AEST

User #32349 7157
posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

BeenThere writes...

More likely they read my submission to the NBN some months/year ago that included a suggestion to put in a backbone roughly along those Regional centres and have China etc connect from Darwin.

You certainly put a lot of effort into that – well done

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -27, 5pm
AEST

User #55106 1497
posts
BeenThere
Whirlpool Enthusiast

Freycinet writes...

You certainly put a lot of effort into that – well done

Thanks! It's 'just another submission' – ever notice that 'Expert Panel' Reports don't actually come out with directive solutions? They almost always come out with the findings that anybody could come up with if they asked the general public, it makes me doubt their real expertise area (more likely political connection).

Never saw the doc that initiated the so called 'Black Spot Initiative' – though Black Spot was a fungal citrus disease!

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -27, 8pm
AEST

User #105806 69 posts
factor
Forum Regular

Seems to me that ownership of entirely new physical back-haul is not the only way to provide competitive services.

Given that optic fibres now can carry multiple wavelengths of 10Gbps, a single physical cable (where Telstra already has one in) can provide sufficient capacity for regional areas. All that is required is competition in providing monthly services to ISPs.

That could potentially be achieved by the Govt buying IRUs™ for some of the wavelengths from Telstra. The Gov network company would then provide monthly/annual services to ISPs over the wavelengths they own.

If the Govt could buy IRUs for 5 wavelengths from an existing provider, for less than 40% the cost of installing new physical infrastructure — would that be more efficient for the country?

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -28, 10am
AEST

User #55106 1497
posts
BeenThere
Whirlpool Enthusiast

factor writes...

Given that optic fibres now can carry multiple wavelengths of 10Gbps, a single physical cable (where Telstra already has one in) can provide sufficient capacity for regional areas. All that is required is competition in providing monthly services to ISPs.

There was a Caltex Oil advertisement several years ago that had the line: "Oils ain't Oils, Sol!" And this can be carried through with Optical Fibres. There is a range of primarily Single Mode Optical Fibres and they are not all alike and more recent fibres use a Non Zero Dispersion Shifter Fibre property that does not necessarily match nicely with existing older fibres.

So before you charge headlong with championing competition to make another mess of infrastructure – maybe you should consult with some knowledgeable telecommunications engineers.... :|

If the Govt could buy IRUs for 5 wavelengths from an existing provider, for less than 40% the cost of installing new physical infrastructure — would that be more efficient for the country?

Answer: The current provider could pay the Government to receive this infrastructure from the provider, and this infrastructure could be run as a non-competition infrastructure model, because now it is already losing money hand over fist (remember the USO provided by the government to fund all this?) This scenario would be far more efficient for the country!!

And you thought your question was rhetoric!!

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -28, 11am
AEST

User #246181 306
posts
Charlie Oscar
Forum Regular

BeenThere writes...

Yes! And Optical Fibre replaced almost all the wireless backhaul in Australia in about 6 years from 1987 to 1993 – because OF was far more reliable and a bit cheaper.

And? This doesn't refute what I stated.

anchor
posted 2009 -
May -28, 3pm
AEST

<p>User #55106 1497 posts BeenThere Whirlpool Enthusiast</p>	<p>Chris_O writes... And? This doesn't refute what I stated.</p> <p>I wondered if you got confused between Backhaul/IEN and CAN? I think you are right if you are thinking CAN, because this is where most of the (point to point) radio is, and cellular structure radio is of course used for mobile phone access too.</p> <p>Much of western Queensland is High Capacity Radio Concentrator systems – which are part of the CAN and these systems travel over several hundred km. There is almost no Backhaul out there!</p> <p>There is also some point-to-point radio in the Backhaul – but as I said before , the amount of this is very small in comparison to fibre connected backhaul transmission / switches. :)</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-28, 6pm AEST</p>
<p>User #203693 4855 posts ungulate Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>Who here would agree that what the government needs is a map of how the entire backhaul should look like. I'm not talking detailed planning, just some sensible scrutiny of what locations are on the map and in some minor cases, the optimal route. I'm talking about the kind of thing a few experts could put together in a matter of weeks.</p> <p>If they had such a map, then the backhaul black spots program should evolve as a subset of that map. And of course that would be a tough decision as \$250M builds roughly another 10,000Km of cable and the entire backhaul for the NBN could easily run past 100,000Km.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-30, 10pm AEST</p>
<p>User #203693 4855 posts ungulate Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>So how many fibres are there in the NextGen cable? I did ask the guys once when they were laying it. IIRC the figure was about 24.</p> <p>I wonder also if anyone knows what fraction of their cable's capacity is actually used currently?</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-30, 11pm AEST</p>
<p>User #203693 4855 posts ungulate Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>Freycinet writes... http://www.dbcde.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/113439/Nortel.pdf[↗]</p> <p>Nortel don't really explain their assumptions as to individual usage of data or their philosophy or methodology.</p> <p>I'd treat their figures as if anything, a serious underestimate of the amount of data the backhaul network needs to carry.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-30, 11pm AEST</p>
<p>User #203693 4855 posts ungulate Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>Just a little note here to repeat something I said in an earlier thread but mostly belongs here.</p> <p>The choice of CAN technology (which PON) may affect to some extent the topology of the back haul.</p> <p>For instance, if WDM-PON can reach 80-100Km, that opens the way to extend the CAN from larger towns (> 1000) to pretty much anywhere in between, minimising the need to build branching into the backhaul.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-30, 11pm AEST</p>
<p>User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>ungulate writes... Nortel don't really explain their assumptions as to individual usage of data or their philosophy or methodology.</p> <p>Are you referring to this data ?? /forum-replies.cfm?t=1208761&p=2#r25[↗]</p> <p>– or something else</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-31, 5pm AEST</p>
<p>User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>One of the benefits of bringing fibre backhaul into smaller towns is that it enables the possibility of communities helping themselves ...</p> <p>In the Cumbria country side of the United Kingdom, a small community of Alston is building their own FTTH network because its uneconomical for the larger carriers to deliver the services. http://ozftth.blogspot.com/2009/05/fibre-to-farm.html[↗]</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-31, 5pm AEST</p>
<p>User #24242 18355 posts The Oracle Man Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>ungulate writes... So how many fibres are there in the NextGen cable? I did ask the guys once when they were laying it. IIRC the figure was about 24.</p> <p>Today's Herald Sun says that overhead cable, yes they are willing to pass a law to bypass council objections for the NBN, will be 18mm thick. Existing HFC is 12mm thick.</p> <p>I get the feeling a lot of NBN cable will be on poles, especially in remote country areas.</p> <p>Unsure if 18mm give a guru some indication how many fibres that will carry.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- May-31, 5pm AEST</p>
<p>User #227754 194 posts snailbot</p>	<p>The list is out for the first places to be connected: http://www.dbcde.gov.au/communications/national_broadban[↗]</p>	

Forum Regular	http://www.abcde.gov.au/communications/national_broadband_network/national_broadband_network_Regional_Backbone_Blackspots_Program	anchor posted 2009-Jul-3, 11am AEST
User #26153 297 posts Gomax Forum Regular	Does this fibre only go to existing exchanges, or distributed to individual points? If individual, what radius from town centre?	anchor posted 2009-Jul-3, 2pm AEST
User #66644 842 posts aliali Whirlpool Enthusiast	<p>The Oracle Man writes...</p> <p>I get the feeling a lot of NBN cable will be on poles, especially in remote country areas.</p> <p>I would have though that would be a bit dumb actually as laying the cable underground in the country has to be a lot easier than in urban environments as there would be a lot less obstruction to laying. Plus of course, depending on how remote we are talking there might be a rather significant lack of existing poles.</p> <p>If the Herald Sun is referring to overhead cables in rural towns, then yes this will probably be the quickest and cheapest way to go.</p>	anchor posted 2009-Jul-3, 3pm AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	<p>Some announcements expected by the end of the month ...</p> <p>BY month's end Conroy will announce the winners of the \$250m tender to fill the so-called backhaul black spots connecting regional centres, where Telstra dominates broadband delivery. The tender, part of the NBN network, is about boosting services to a handful of centres with likely winners including Leighton's NextGen and Optus.</p> <p>http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26188748-5013408,00.html</p> <p>... anyone for Nextgen</p>	anchor posted 2009-Oct-9, 11pm AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	<p>Leightons Nextgen tipped to win contract ...</p> <p>COMMUNICATIONS Minister Stephen Conroy is expected shortly to award Leighton's NextGen with the \$250m backhaul blackspot contract. The Melbourne Cup and a trip to New Zealand may delay an announcement this week, but it should come soon after, with the aim being to build more capacity to regional towns where Telstra is the only choice of broadband supply.</p> <p>http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26282705-5013408,00.html</p>	anchor posted 2009-Oct-30, 11pm AEST
User #16992 1911 posts Assailant Whirlpool Enthusiast	<p>interesting.</p> <p>when i asked them directly, they replied with a typical public servant answer that failed to address the question:</p> <p>Dear Mr. *****,</p> <p>Thank you for your email dated 27 October 2009 regarding the Regional Backbone Blackspots Request for Tender (RFT).</p> <p>The evaluation process for the RBBP RFT has not been concluded. Information on the program (and any future announcements) is available at www.dbcde.gov.au/nationalbroadbandnetwork .</p> <p>no answer to when any announcement was likely.</p> <p><edit> for quote syntax</p>	anchor posted 2009-Nov-2, 4pm AEST edited 2009-Nov-2, 4pm AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	<p>Real soon now apparently ...</p> <p>COMMUNICATION Minister Stephen Conroy's imminent award of a \$250 million contract to Leighton for his broadband backhaul project is just one of \$4 billion in new work coming the company's way in what otherwise would seem to be a tepid economy.</p> <p>http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/market-moves-beyond-2010/story-e6frg9io-1225794671522</p>	anchor posted 2009-Nov-5, 5pm AEST
User #4463 187 posts sulrich Forum Regular	<p>BeenThere writes...</p> <p>More likely they read my submission to the NBN some months/year ago http://www.archive.dbcde.gov.au/2009/april/national_broadband_network/submissions/Malcolm_Moore.pdf (or was it to the RTR) http://www.rtrc.gov.au/__dat/a/assets/text_file/0017/90170/RTIRC_Report.rtf that included a suggestion to put in a backbone roughly along those Regional centres and have China etc connect from Darwin.</p> <p>Outstanding work Sir! Why havent they offered you a job yet?</p> <p>Awesome effort on your submission.</p> <p>Cheers</p> <p>Steve</p>	anchor posted 2009-Nov-5, 6pm AEST
User #203693 4855 posts unoulate	Does anyone else see a potential conflict of interest in NextGen being involved?	anchor posted 2009-Nov-7, 8pm AEST

Whirlpool Forums Addict		Nov-17, 8pm AEST
User #16992 1911 posts Assailant Whirlpool Enthusiast	no rush for this announcement then?	anchor posted 2009-Nov-16, 12am AEST
User #16992 1911 posts Assailant Whirlpool Enthusiast	this is starting to drag out a bit. media reports were obviously a bit off the mark.	anchor posted 2009-Nov-30, 2am AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	Assailant writes... this is starting to drag out a bit. media reports were obviously a bit off the mark. From the horses mouth ... "Tomorrow [December 4] we will be announcing a major blackspot fibre rollout. I would have announced it earlier, I would have announced it last week but the media has been a little full of a number of issues," Conroy said. "There is 6000 kilometres of fibre being announced tomorrow right around Australia. All those blackspots, all those areas where people haven't been able to get competition where there is one provider with the main pipe into the town. This is just the beginnings of how we are going to transform IT and telecommunications in the country." http://www.computerworld.com.au/article/328572/6000km_broadband_blackspot_announcement_imminent ... this time for sure :P	anchor posted 2009-Dec-3, 4pm AEST
User #16992 1911 posts Assailant Whirlpool Enthusiast	i wont hold my breath, im sure they can find some reason not to announce.. like, i dunno, because its a friday or some such.	anchor posted 2009-Dec-4, 1am AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	Assailant writes... i wont hold my breath, im sure they can find some reason not to announce.. like, i dunno, because its a friday or some such. Confirmed ... Leighton Holdings Ltd-owned carrier Nextgen Networks has won the tender for the federal government's \$250 million Regional Backbone Blackspots Program, which will put in place key infrastructure for the National Broadband Network (NBN). Nextgen will build fibre optic cable networks to bring competing wholesale backhaul services to some of Australia's highest-priced regional locations for broadband services. http://www.businessspectator.com.au/bs.nsf/Article/Leighton-carrier-wins-NBN-tender?pd20091204-YE2FY?OpenDocument	anchor posted 2009-Dec-4, 11am AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	Conroy's media release ... 6,000km regional broadband backbone for National Broadband Network The Rudd Government today announced 6,000km of regional fibre broadband backbone links, the first building blocks of the National Broadband Network on mainland Australia. "This priority \$250 million investment will directly benefit more than 395,000 people in 100 regional locations and create new jobs across five states and the Northern Territory," said the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy. http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/109 ... with a nice map http://www.dbcde.gov.au/funding_and_programs/national_broadband_network/national_broadband_network_Regional_Backbone_Blackspots_Program I also see that DBCDE has a new website (at last) http://www.dbcde.gov.au/	anchor posted 2009-Dec-4, 11am AEST edited 2009-Dec-4, 11am AEST
User #5008 1512 posts Harry Whirlpool Enthusiast	What about metro blackspots (no capacity , RIMS, Pairgains etc) and ADSL2 more then 1.5 kms from exchanges ?	anchor posted 2009-Dec-4, 12pm AEST
User #32349 7157 posts Freycinet Whirlpool Forums Addict	This gives an idea of the costs: The Darwin-Emerald-Longreach fibre will run over 3,835 kilometres and feature 42 backbone access points along the route. It will cost \$125.5 million. The Broken Hill link will cover 1137 kilometres with 35 backbone access points along the way, at a cost of \$70.7 million. The Geraldton link will run 426 kilometres, include six backbone access points and cost \$24.9 million to build. Victor Harbor's link covers 129 kilometres and nine access points at a cost of \$12.6 million, and the South West Gippsland link will run for 215 kilometres, covering 10 access points and costing \$15.9 million. http://www.itnews.com.au/News/162072,nextgen-wins-250m-nbn-backhaul-project.aspx Darwin-Emerald-Longreach \$33/m	

Broken Hill	\$62/m
Geraldton	\$58/m
Victor Harbor's	\$98/m
South West Gippsland	\$74/m

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 12pm
AEST

User #32349 7157 posts
Freycinet
Whirlpool Forums Addict

NextGen wins \$250m regional backbone deal ...

"We will be working as hard as possible with communities for the least disruptions, but we will build it as quickly as we possibly can," King said today at the media briefing. The six destinations of the network are Geraldton, Western Australia; Darwin, Northern Territory; Emerald and Longreach, Queensland; Broken Hill, New South Wales; Victor Harbor, South Australia; and South West Gippsland, Victoria. Conroy said the links would pass 100 regional towns. Work is expected to commence immediately with the backbone links expected to be completed within 18 months.
<http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/communications/soa/NextGen-wins-250m-regional-backbone-deal/0,130061791,339299852,00.htm>

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 2pm
AEST

User #16992 1911 posts
Assailant
Whirlpool Enthusiast

The Geraldton link will run 426 kilometres, include six backbone access points and cost \$24.9 million to build.

hurrah! well thats at least an announcement. i wonder if they can keep their 18month timeframe.

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 2pm
AEST

User #14210 4075 posts
what's up skip
Whirlpool Forums Addict

Harry writes...

What about metro blackspots (no capacity , RIMS, Pairgains etc) and ADSL2 more then 1.5 kms from exchanges ?

Since the OPEL project was canned by Rudd and Conroy, you will now have to wait 5 to 8 years for the NBN rollout.

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 2pm
AEST

User #14210 4075 posts
what's up skip
Whirlpool Forums Addict

I am still a little confused about who will actually own and who will run this expanded network.

With timelines like 12 to 18 months it will be a long time before any of these regional locations see new DSLAMs in them. The ISPs can't work out the business case until the get pricing.

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 2pm
AEST

User #31305 773 posts
aeon
Whirlpool Enthusiast

As a Darwin resident, very happy to read the latest news linked a few posts up...

This is a good article to, and it specifically mentions us up here:

<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/162080,iinet-internode-mactel-circling-new-backhaul-links.aspx>

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 4pm
AEST

User #10096 547 posts
Tim W
Whirlpool Enthusiast

ungulate writes...

Does anyone else see a potential conflict of interest in NextGen being involved?

I do.

I also think its funny that Cairns is considered to have "competitive" backhaul. Not at ~\$200/meg anyway.

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 4pm
AEST

User #195863 31 posts
oma_daviesh
Forum Regular

what's up skip writes...

I am still a little confused about who will actually own and who will run this expanded network.

I believe the original tender said that the government will end up owning it and Nextgen will run it for them for a contract period.

EDIT: <http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/communications/soa/Nextgen-to-roll-out-new-backhaul-pricing-/0,130061791,339299866,00.htm>

Sykes said most of the \$250 million tender would cover the construction of the network, and that while it had rights to sell access to it, the Federal Government would retain ownership of the actual passive asset. Nextgen's own skin in the project will be limited to operating the network.

"Our mandate is to build and operate the network over the next five years and to commercialise it on the terms agreed," he said.

After the five-year period the Federal Government has reserved the right to sell the network; however, it is not clear yet whether it will be sold to the NBN Co or another network operator.

If they can get all this done in 18 months I will be very happy, we need some competitive DSLAMs in around Darwin and Palmerston. When you consider a lot of the bigger ISPs are already Nextgen customers in some capacity, getting all this linked back to the ISP core network will hopefully be straightforward.

anchor
posted 2009-
Dec-4, 4pm
AEST
edited 2009-
Dec-4, 6pm
AEST

User #60576 9457

oma_daviesh writes...

<p>posts Michael D. Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>oma_daviesh writes... we need some competitive DSLAMS in around Darwin and Palmerston</p> <p>Agreed. While iiNet's had a DSLAM in Smith Street exchange for a while now, the sheer cost of operating transmission out of Darwin has made it too expensive to consider.</p> <p>Given this announcement i'd expect to see some more competitive pricing on some of those routes available from the Big T soon.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- Dec-4, 6pm AEST</p>
<p>User #195863 31 posts oma_daviesh Forum Regular</p>	<p>Michael D. writes... While iiNet's had a DSLAM in Smith Street exchange for a while now, the sheer cost of operating transmission out of Darwin has made it too expensive to consider.</p> <p>I agree, and my feeling is that the Telstra link out of town is pretty congested, it is very hard to do anything streaming, even on really low bandwidth.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- Dec-4, 6pm AEST</p>
<p>User #201523 92 posts rudi2 Forum Regular</p>	<p>aeon writes... As a Darwin resident, very happy to read the latest news linked a few posts up..</p> <p>As a Mt Isa resident I'm extremely happy to read the latest news on your Darwin back haul upgrade too, as it's coming out through Mt Isa and not Alice Springs as I would have imagined...so good news for us over here too.</p> <p>aeon have you noticed an improvement in you speeds over the last 2-3 weeks? I have over here, Telstra have done something recently, their site is now showing I can get ADSL2 also, that was not the case a month ago. About bloody time too I reckon!</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- Dec-5, 7am AEST</p>
<p>User #55145 15491 posts ..RC.. Whirlpool Forums Addict</p>	<p>I cannot follow that NT/Qld link map...</p> <p>Why does it go from Emerald then head south and not have a spur line heading off to Rockhampton along the highway, unless there is already a fibre link there laid by QR..</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- Dec-5, 9am AEST</p>
<p>User #31305 773 posts aeon Whirlpool Enthusiast</p>	<p>rudi2 writes... aeon have you noticed an improvement in you speeds over the last 2-3 weeks? I have over here, Telstra have done something recently, their site is now showing I can get ADSL2 also, that was not the case a month ago. About bloody time too I reckon!</p> <p>Nothing noticeably different – I've had Internode ADSL2+ (via Telstra) for a good few months, and have been getting pretty awesome speeds ever since joining (can get 1.8MB/s on the Usenet server for example).</p> <p>I'm just looking forward to more competitive ADSL2+ plans if Internode/iiNet start installing their hardware locally, once this new backhaul is completed.</p>	<p>anchor posted 2009- Dec-5, 11pm AEST</p>

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