

Policy challenges for Australia's broadband future

ATUG Panel Forum February 2008

*Andrew Skewes
Director Networks Policy
Multimedia Victoria*



The FTTN tender – some goals/issues

- That the emergent broadband infrastructure and services competition/differentiation environment is facilitated.
 - Service providers must be able to differentiate and innovate on services speed, quality, features, price..
- That competition in services from the node to the premises is facilitated by a competitive services arrangement from the node back into the broader broadband network.
- The commercial, legal and technical arrangements for FTTN enable those that demand a fibre connection to get one.
- Can the tender improve the performance of the regulatory settings – for example, by using contract provisions rather than regulations (note the ULL and ULLS regulatory experience of 10 years)

Immediate regulatory issues

- Regulating services in a converged (NGN) data environment
- Regulating for new infrastructure such as FTTP
- Regulating for competition in market where data services are operating in a much higher and more symmetric bandwidth context
- Reforming the USO (for a world of data and widespread access to mobile telephony)