



9 Springbank Street, Tullamarine, Victoria 3043 Australia
www.apcoaust.com.au
Tel: +613 8378 8210 Fax: +613 9338 6781

NBN Co Ltd

NBN Co Consultation Paper: Proposed Wholesale Fibre Bit Stream Products

APCO Australasia (APCOA), an affiliate of APCO International, is the premier Public Safety, Communications and IT forum in the Australasian region. With more than 17,000 members around the world, the APCO network exists to serve the people who manage, operate, maintain and supply the communications and IT systems used to safeguard the lives and property of citizens everywhere.

APCOA's value-add lies in our ability to bring together industry leaders and technology innovators providing real time information through new and emerging technology, leading the way to a better informed community and managing crises more effectively.

Response from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officers (APCO) Australasia:

- APCO Australasia, and its global affiliates, believes that broadband, whether it be by fibre or wireless, will be the platform upon which public safety communication services will be delivered in the future.
- On this basis infrastructure associated with this platform should be declared as "critical infrastructure" in order to provide "mission critical services". The class of service proposed by NBN Co to meet this criteria would therefore be "Critical".
- Whilst recognising the objective of NBN Co to develop a competitive environment for the NBN Co, APCO Australasia believes that access to fibre for public safety communications should not be subject to the retail market and that NBN Co needs to identify the key stakeholders in the public safety communications "market" and to negotiate directly with these key stakeholders in order to define their needs for access to the NBN. APCO Australasia does not believe that the public safety communications market will comprise simply the national emergency services or emergency management organisations and that the NBN project presents the opportunity to better define the key stakeholders in this market.
- APCO Australasia also believes that the NBN presents the opportunity to provide connectivity to existing networks used to provide public safety communications and even more importantly future networks and technologies e.g. 4G/LTE, in order to develop a national public safety communications network with the maximum level of interoperability and resilience.

- APCO Australasia believes that when the NBN is used for public safety communications applications, development will rapidly take place incorporating spatial information, imaging and social networking, to provide greatly enhanced situational awareness and a complete operating picture from an emergency management perspective which to date has been bandwidth constrained.
- APCO Australasia, and its global affiliates, has identified the following global issues for public safety communications:
 - Broadband will be the future platform for public safety – How broadband can be used in the next generation of emergency number systems (000) and in emergency alert and warning systems.
 - Data management and real time access and evaluation – To support the concepts of complete operating picture and situational awareness based upon the ability to perform accurate analysis and assessments of the data being accessed from a variety of sources.
 - Public warnings to communities – Australia is leading the rest of the world through the initiatives it is putting in place for public emergency notification following the 2009 Victorian bushfires.
 - Telematics and their impact on Public Safety Answering Points – A wide range of telemetric devices are now being incorporated into new vehicles.
 - Interoperability – The areas need to be identified where standards are required to achieve system interoperability and create a complete operating picture at all levels, horizontal and vertical.

The NBN has the potential to address all these issues.

APCO Australasia looks forward to working with NBN Co to develop the future role of broadband communications in Australia's public safety communications.

GEOFF SPRING
Chairman

12 February 2010