

Media Release



9 APRIL 2009

MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED ON GOVERNMENT'S BROADBAND PLAN

Will the new National Broadband Network increase the cost of basic telephone connection in new homes?

This is the question that the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) (WA) is calling on the federal government to answer.

Now that the government has announced plans to mandate the installation of fibre optic infrastructure to the home in greenfield estates this will impact on both phone and internet service provision to new homes.

"UDIA is concerned that consumers may end up footing the bill for the government's fibre optic network in new areas," UDIA CEO Debra Goostrey said.

"Currently the copper network for phone connection is supplied to premises in new developments by Telstra," Ms Goostrey said. "The developer will provide the trench, however the cost of cabling to the home is borne by Telstra."

"If the government mandates fibre optic cabling to all new homes in place of copper – it is not clear who will pay," Ms Goostrey said.

"The Federal Government must clarify the role of the company they are establishing to roll this technology out to Australian households," Ms Goostrey said. "They cannot cost shift basic telecommunication services when housing affordability could be compromised."

"We understand the benefits of fast and effective broadband networks, however people currently have a choice if they want to pay extra for the luxury of high speed internet.

"We want to make sure all home owners have basic telephone and internet access at no extra cost."

"UDIA calls on the government to provide clear, upfront advice on how fibre optic technology to new homes will be funded," Ms Goostrey said.

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