



NBN: The State of Play

'We are standing on the cusp of a great transformation...' *Senator Stephen Conroy*

Realising our Broadband Future, December 2009

Communications Law Centre
Wednesday 3 March 2010

Anne Hurley, CEO
Communications Alliance

The State of Play for NBN at Communications Alliance



- The role of Communications Alliance in transitioning to the NBN environment: industry solutions for industry issues
- The Vision for NBN: speed, access and competitive service delivery to support innovation and new business models for the Digital Economy
- The Communications Alliance NBN Project: defining the technical and operating environment, delivering through industry collaboration
- Policy and Research: convergence and consumer policy in the broadband-enabled world

The Role of Communications Alliance in Transitioning the NBN environment: Industry Solutions for Industry Issues



- Legislative foundation of 'maximum use of industry self-regulation': *Telco Act 1997, s 4*
- *'...the changing nature of telecommunications technology and its complexity make it difficult for any government agency to devise appropriate standards. Further, the potential costs to the industry from regulatory error are very high.'* Productivity Commission, 2001
- Significant achievements through industry self-regulation– the 'engine room' for interoperator processes eg MNP, technical standards for customer equipment, development of consumer-related codes
- The principle of industry self-regulation and its underpinning philosophy is just as relevant now as it was when the Act was introduced
- The NBN Project is the 2010 industry self-regulatory response to the defining announcement of the NBN: not constrained by processes of the past

The Vision for NBN: :Speed, Access and Competitive Service Delivery to Support Innovation and New Business Models for the Digital Economy



- *Realising our Broadband Future*, December 2009: a conversation about how to turn the broadband-enabled digital vision to reality
- The transformative power of the NBN: drive and enable future innovation, growth, efficiency, productivity and improved standards of living
- Identifying the applications, services and business models and the steps needed to make them happen
- *'...the key is not to seek the killer application, but to build the killer environment so that every industry sector can use the infrastructure to its advantage.'* Senator Conroy
- Communications Alliance *'Broadband and Beyond'* Annual Conferences: part of the conversation beyond the infrastructure

The Communications Alliance NBN Project: Defining the Technical and Operating Environment, Delivering Through Industry Collaboration



Background and fundamental premise

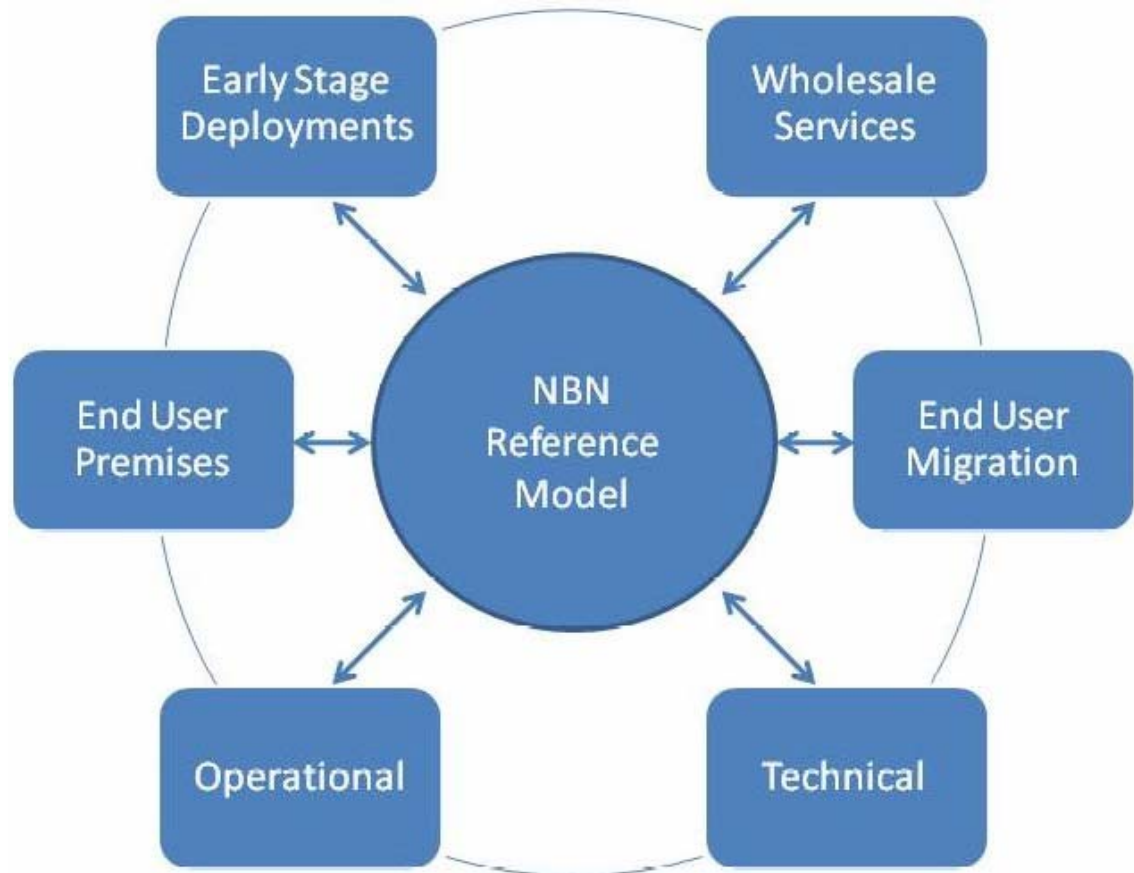
- *At each service delivery location, the network must enable multiple services to be active in parallel and operating simultaneously, each connected through the access network to different wholesale or retail service providers.*
- *Each active service may be connected to different physical devices within the customer premises, and each device within the premises may distribute the service into one or more in-premises networks.*

NBN Wiki

The Communications Alliance NBN Project: NBN Project Structure



March 2010
168 people
57 organisations



The Communications Alliance NBN Project: Status of Project Teams and Outputs to Date



- NBN Reference Architecture: High Level Architecture Options for the NBN Release 1: provided to NBN Co;
- Wholesale Service Definition – Ethernet Release 1: provided to NBN Co;
- Early Stage Deployments: developing draft Guidelines for conduits;
- End User Premises: reviewing public comments on EUP Handbook
- Technical: Draft Release for Public Comment last Week
- Operational: early stages
- End User Migration: early staged

The Communications Alliance NBN Project: Consultation and Information



- Communications Alliance NBN Industry Connection Forums
- NBN Wiki – <https://commswiki.dgit.biz>
- Stakeholder briefings and roundtables
- NBN Milestone Calendar – www.commsalliance.com.au/Activities/national-broadband-network/milestones-calendar
- Communications Alliance website
- Documents released for public comment

Policy and Research: Convergence and Consumer Policy in the Broadband-Enabled World



- Communications Alliance Policy Focus 2008: Preparing for the Broadband World:
'With the Government's policy initiatives for broadband infrastructure deployment, it is the position of Communications Alliance that now is the time to develop a policy framework for the broadband-enabled environment of converged networks, technologies and services.'
- Regulatory Reform for 21st Century Broadband: *'Government intends to consider in 2011 whether to look again at its overall approach to regulation in a convergent environment'*;
- Government activity relating to or impacting telecommunications policy and regulation:
 - DBCDE: regulatory reform processes for the NBN, Digital Economy Directions paper, review of consumer-related industry code processes, draft legislation and exposure draft legislation
 - Treasury: introduction and implementation of new Australian Consumer Law, effective advocacy, research and evidence-based decision making in consumer policy
 - Productivity Commission: Consumer Policy Framework, Regulatory Burden.

Policy and Research



- Recurring themes in Communications Alliance submissions:
 - Need to critically examine the appropriate regulatory framework for consumer protection in a broadband world of multiple competitive service providers;
 - Need to ensure evidence-based research regarding the appropriateness of legislated consumer protections in the broadband environment;
 - Importance of consistency of policy directions emanating from the various Government agencies – particularly the work of the Productivity Commission on the consumer policy framework and regulatory red tape ie policy direction away from industry-specific consumer protection and recommendations regulating to good regulatory process and the role of Regulation Impact Statements.
- Communications Alliance will be focusing on facilitating industry input on the policy and regulatory environment for the broadband environment, supported by strong research
- Welcomes roles to be played by CLC and ACCAN.

Conclusion



- The State of Play for NBN at Comms Alliance is progressing industry input to:
 - Building the 'killer environment' for realising the Digital Economy Vision
 - The technical and operating environment for the NBN
 - The policy and regulatory environment, with a focus on convergence and consumer policy, for the NBN world