

NBN:

Our future High Fibre Diet

QuestNet 201 15 July 2011 Simon Hackett MD, Internode



Internode Background + Context

NBN Background + Challenges

Marketplace Transition Challenges

AGENDA

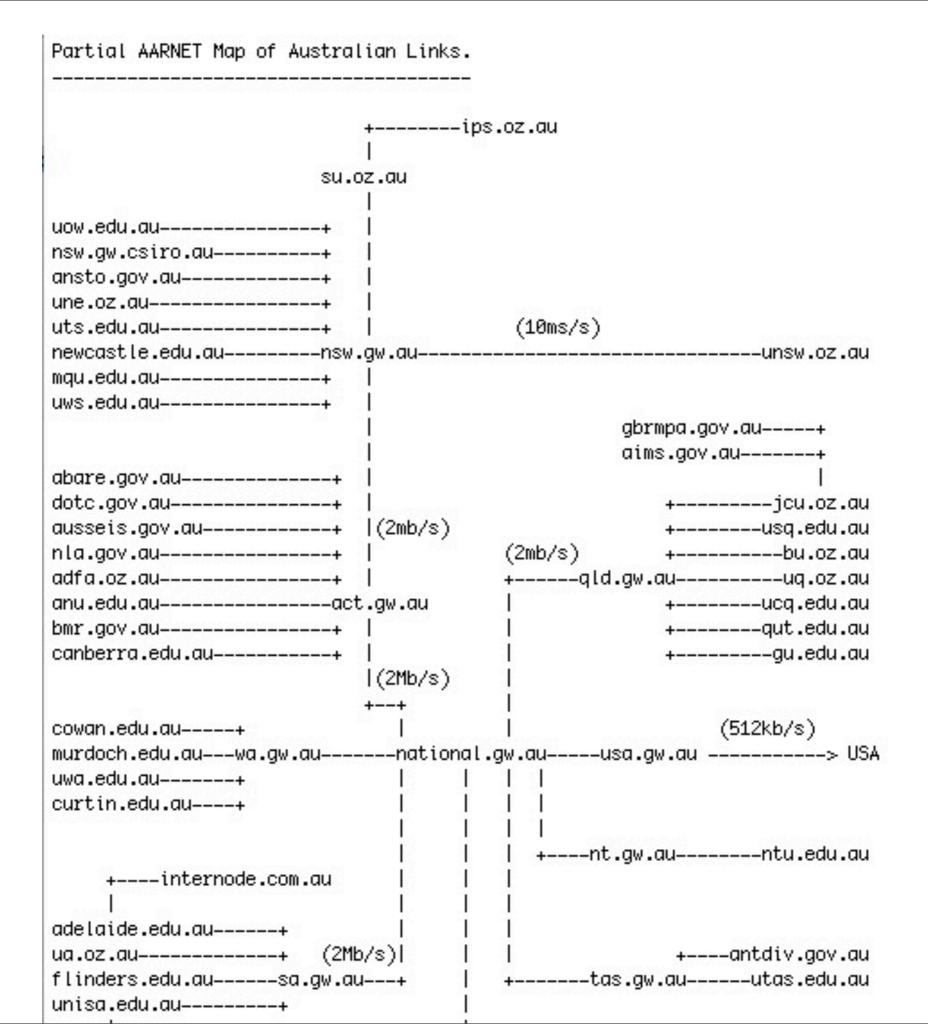
Internode Background + Context

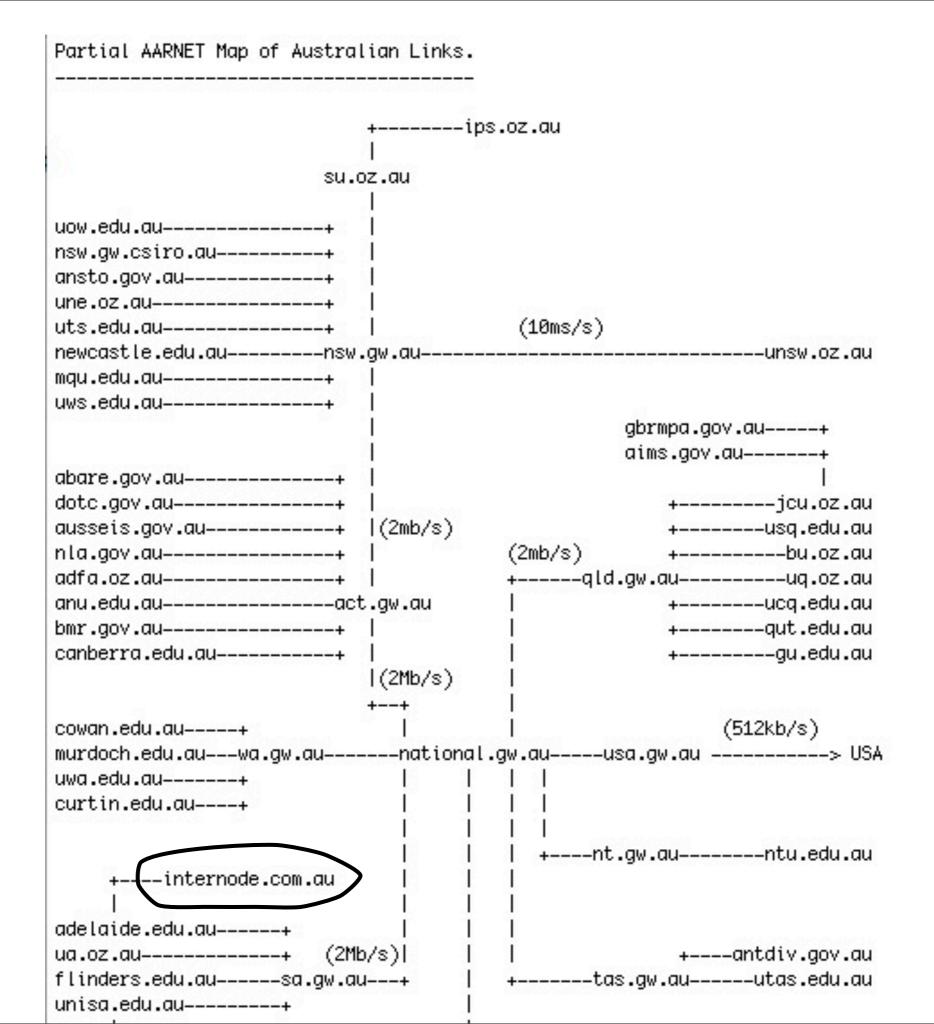
From AARNet v1 to the dawn of the NBN

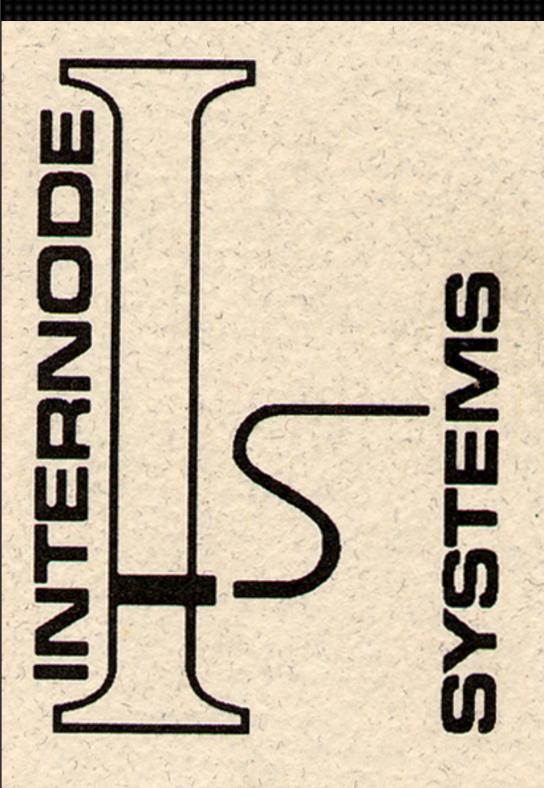












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1991 - 2011 20 Years

Stuff We've Been Up To

- NBN Leadership
 - First customers in Tasmania (July 2010)
 - First customers in Armidale (May 2011)
 - First customers in Willunga (June 2011)
- IPv6 Commercial ISP Leadership
- Fritz!Box (IPv6 native dual stack) CPE
- FetchTV







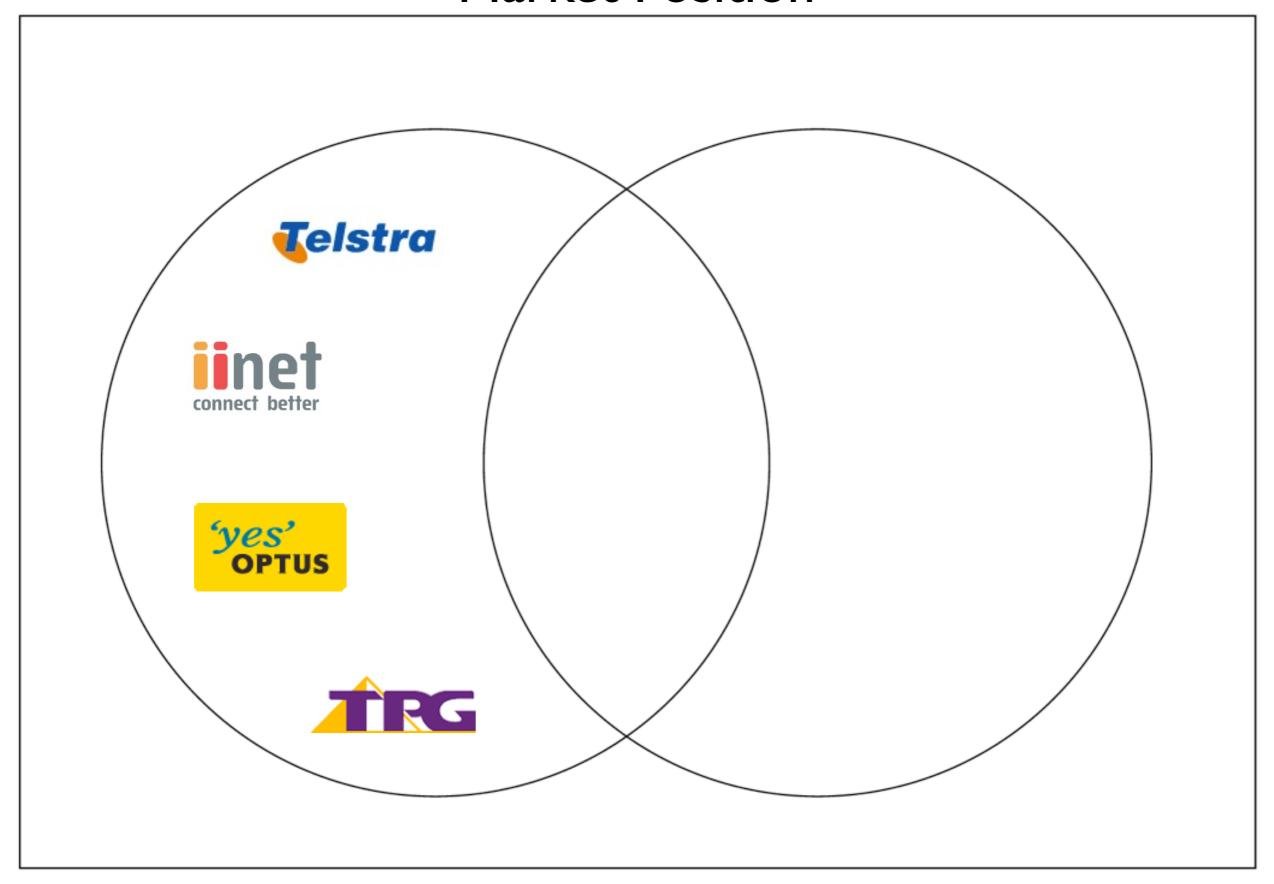


Stress-free Internet.

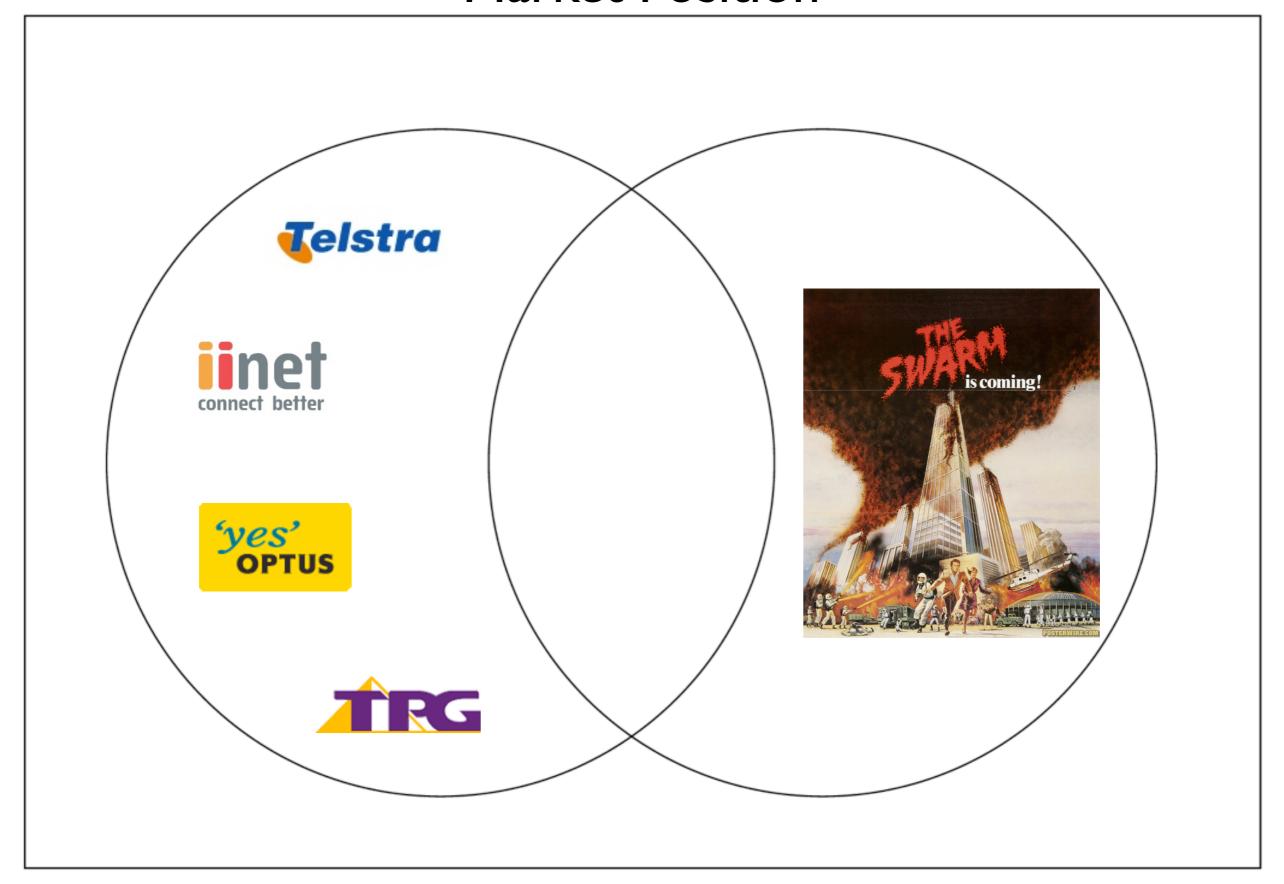




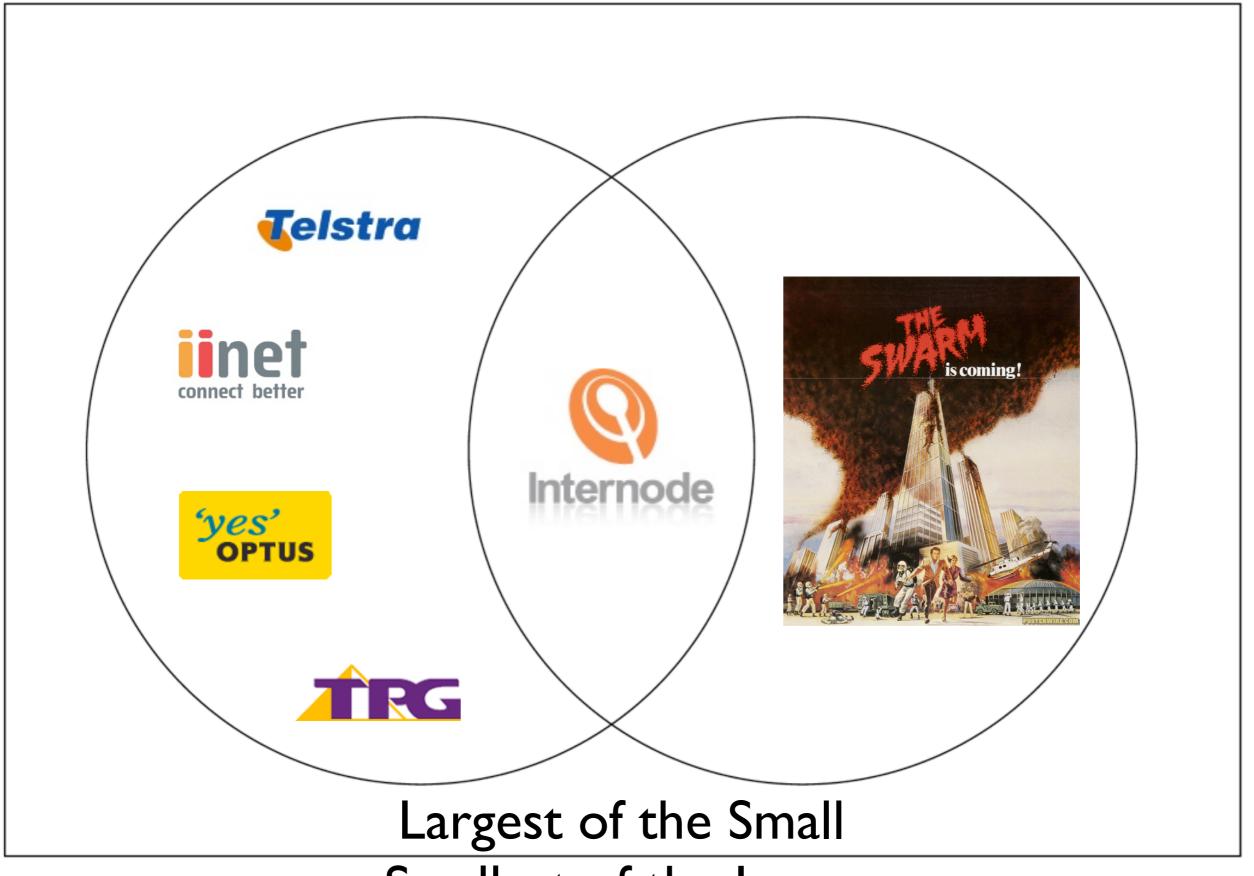
Market Position



Market Position



Market Position



Smallest of the Large

Its all about bundling











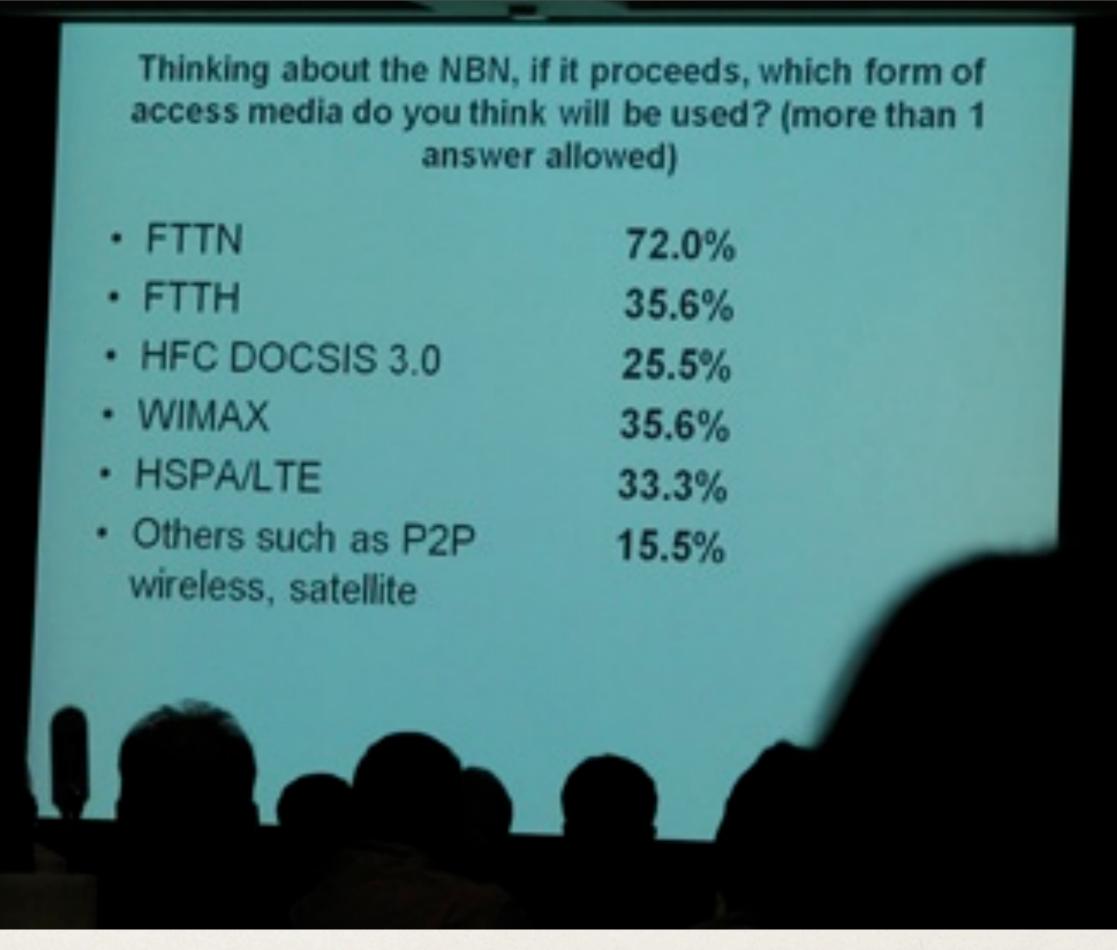






NBN
Background
+
Challenges





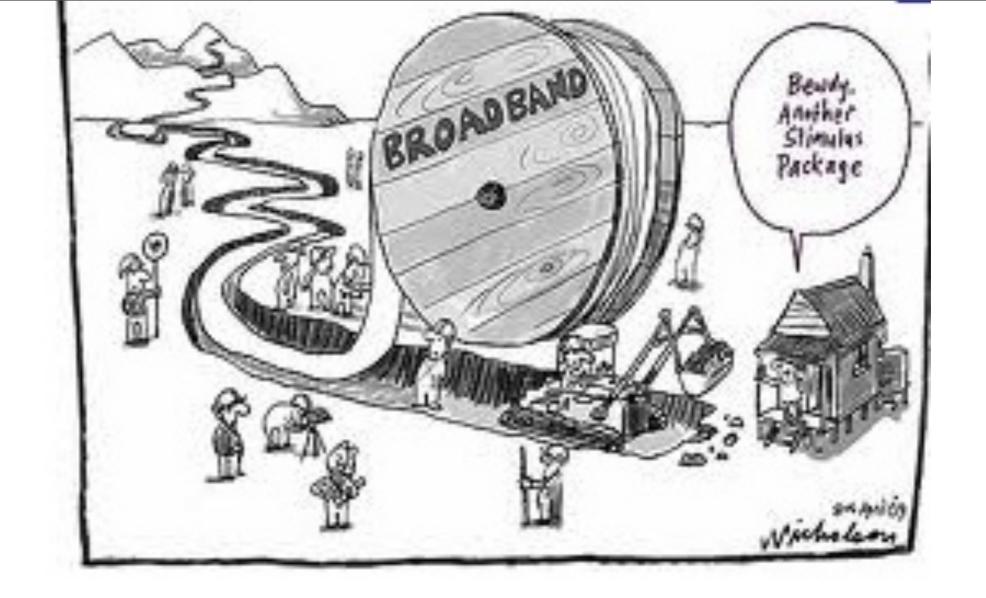
Industry was used to government doing it over rather than doing it right

And then...

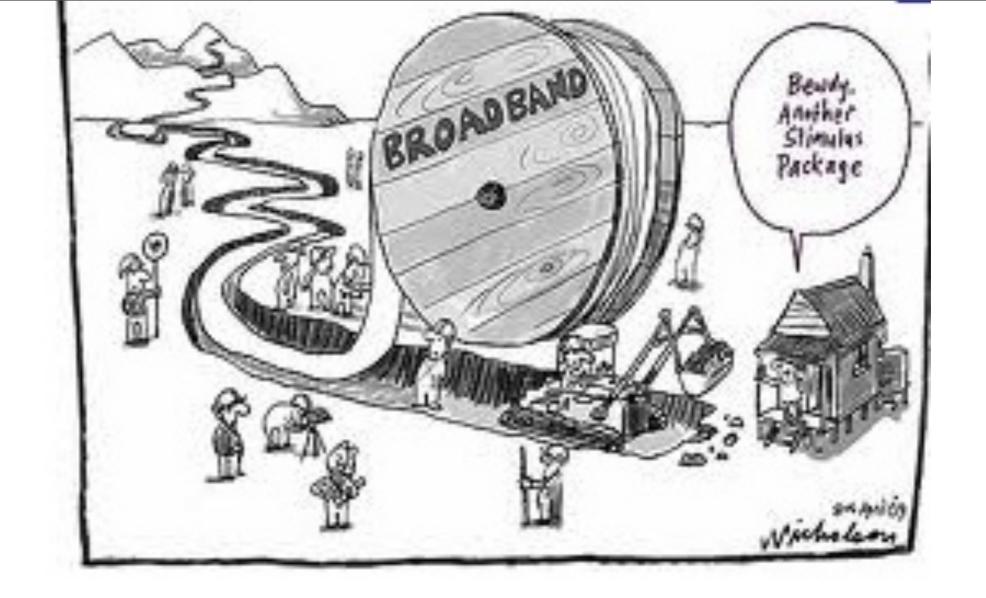
... out of the blue...







This was a GFC Recovery Policy



This <u>was</u> a GFC Recovery Policy ...but...

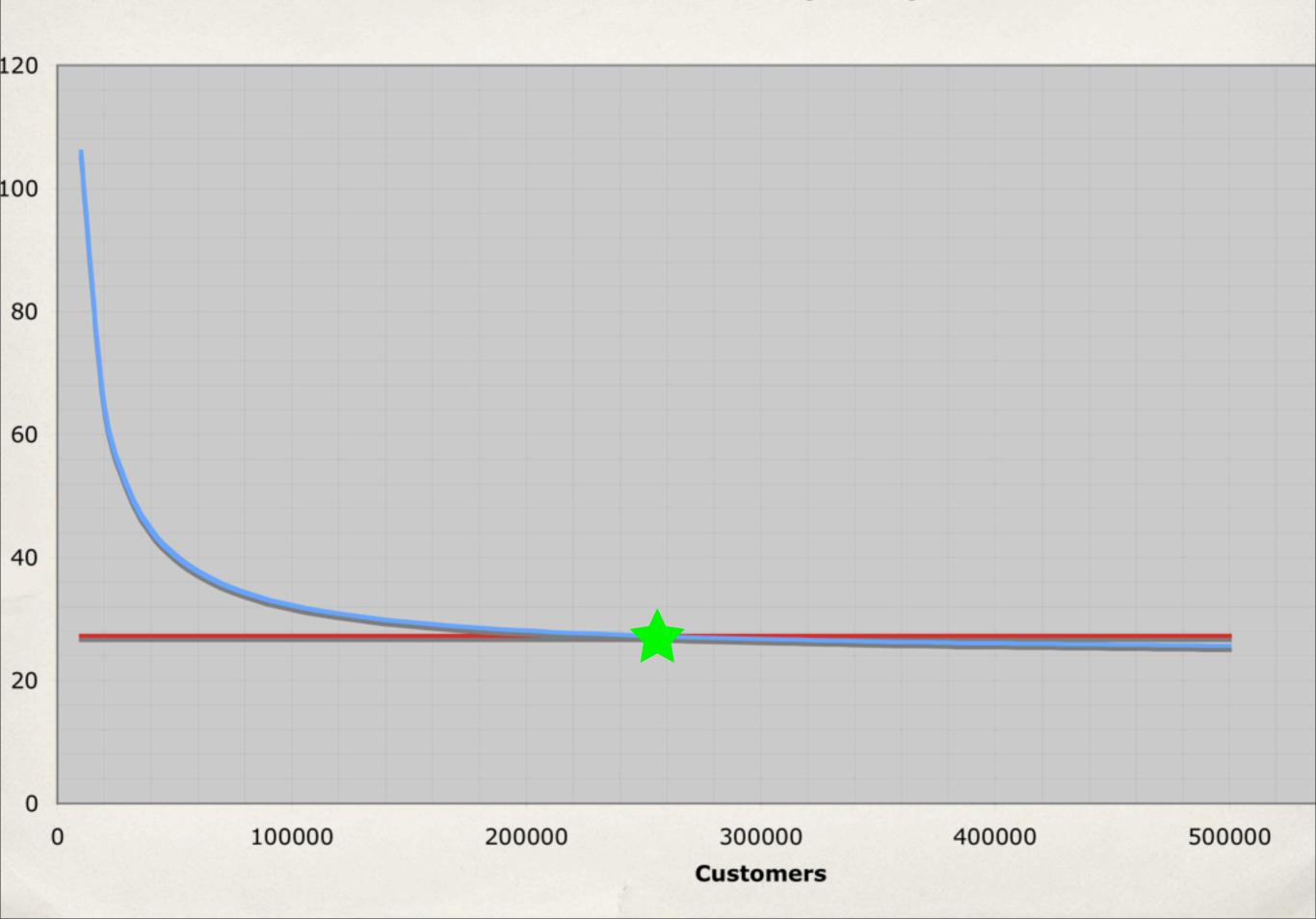
Now it is a Venture Capital Investment





User Network		Access Virtual		Connectivity Virtual		Network-Network		
Interface		Circuit		Circuit		Interface		
Ħ	ALCO A PART	TC_4	TC_1	TC_4	TC_1			
Product	Data	12Mbps/ 1Mbps	150kbps	150 Mbps	20Mbps	1 Gbps short		
	Incl in Access							
Pricing	Virtual Circuit	\$24		\$2150 ⁴		\$200		
K	250,000	250,000		200		120		
Quantity	1 per customer	1 per customer		1 per Connectivity Serving Area		1 per Point of Interconnect		
Sub total	N/a	\$6,000,000		\$430,000		\$24,000		
	\$6,454,000							
MRC	Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC)							
Total; MRC	or car ea							
의	\$25.82 averages across all customers							
Total NRC	\$1,000 Non-Recurring Charge (NRC) for each Network –Network Interface \$120,000 once off.							
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NBN Access Cost (Actual)



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Total; MRC	\$6,454,000 Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC) Or \$25.82 \$33/Mth! averages across all customers						
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14 Points of Interconnect Becomes 121







ACCC HOME

The ACCC

- For consumers
- For businesses
- For regulated industries
- + About us
- Publications
- Public registers
- Media centre
- Media background
- → News releases
- Speeches
- → Conferences
- Photographs and

ACCC home → The ACCC → Media centre → News releases → News releases by topic → For regulated industries

→ Communications → ACCC announces outcome of NBN points of interconnect confirmation process

ACCC announces outcome of NBN points of interconnect confirmation process

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission today issued a revised list of initial points of interconnect* (POI) to the National Broadband Network (NBN).

"The revised list represents the agreed number and location of initial POI to the NBN. It follows a public confirmation process into the 120 initial POI that was developed by NBN Co in consultation with the ACCC and published in December last year," ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel said.

Submissions to the public confirmation process suggested the relocation, addition and consolidation of a number of POIs. The ACCC and NBN Co have considered the submissions in light of the competition criteria in the ACCC advice to government and the NBN Co planning criteria released in December.

=> Far higher overheads for all RSPs (except Telstra)

OUTCOMES DRIVEN BY 121 POI DECISION





- No longer a national network with dual/redundant state capital PoPs: It is now 121 separate regional networks
- Less reliable: No failover if a POI is unavailable
- Uniform Retail Pricing won't be assured
- Dramatically higher fixed overheads + backhaul cost
- Telstra remains the economic monopolist
 - Owns fibre to all POIs (permanent cost advantage)
 - Owns the building for most POI's sites
 - Gets paid 'Eleventy Billion Dollars' as well (!)
- Smaller national providers forced to use aggregators
- National RSP participation and viability damaged

OUTCOMES DRIVEN BY FEDERAL POLICY ON RETURN RATE



- Government ROI -> NBNCo -> RSP's -> retail price
- Network cost funded by consumers via retail fees
 - Its not a grant or subsidy based network its commercial
 - Once built the network will be sold to complete the VC cycle
- · Last decade of retail price improvement will halt for some time
 - Upward pressure on high speed, high capacity retail prices
- A toll road and all the old roads will be gone

OUTCOMES DRIVEN BY NBNCo COST MODEL



- National average \$33 (+GST) NBNCo income required
- Entry Speed/Entry Quota prices set artificially low (ca. \$25)
 - To support historical price for fixed line voice services
- CVC pricing set artificially high (\$20/Mbit) as a consequence
 - Pricing hacks to hide true CVC cost on entry level plans
- · Drives high speed and high download prices upward
- 121 POI decision magnifies this outcome (except Telstra!)
- 'Small' RSPs forced via aggregators
- Services sold only as a wholesale voice + data bundle
 - The end of "Split Bundles"



Sovereign Risk



(politics can be full of surprises)

GETTING THERE FROM HERE



Marketplace
Transition Challenges

Consumers generally understand how a competitive marketplace works



FAIRPLAY

If someone tries to kill you, kill 'em right back.

Unfortunately its *not* a free market in Australian telecommunications





'Deals' in a monopoly market aren't like a normal commercially negotiated arrangement



The ACCC's role is to use the TPA to simulate the outcome of a competitive market environment

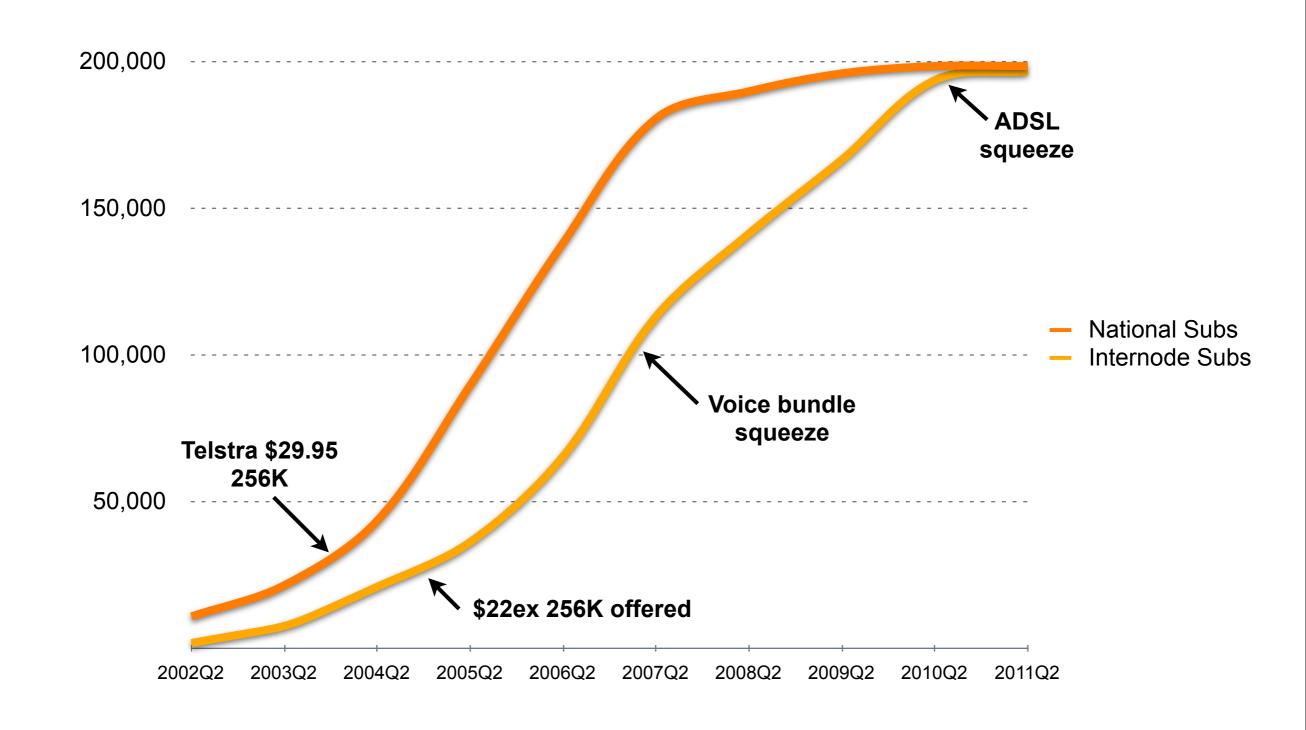
THE MARKET SUFFERS REGULAR PRICE SQUEEZES



Price Squeeze History

- National Subs
 - Internode Subs

Price Squeeze History

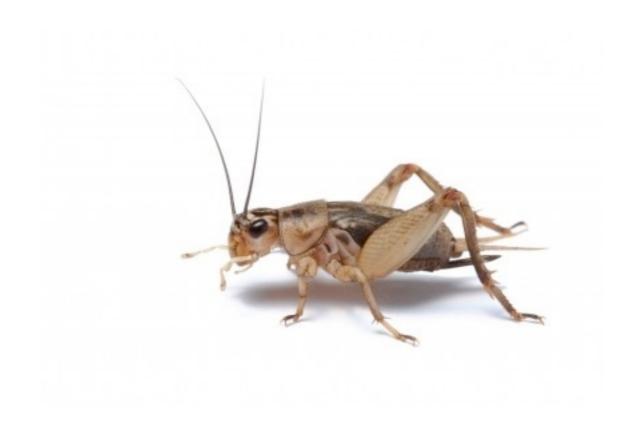




Each time this happens the ACCC intervenes (eventually)

This leads to wholesale pricing remedy

However, this time...



(cue the sound of crickets)



The existing monopoly dominated market will be with us a long time



Consumers without infrastructure based competition are being re-monopolised while the NBN is being built

ACCC inaction is allowing this outcome

Regulatory action is occurring in monopoly voice but not in monopoly bitstream data services

WHAT I WOULD CHANGE (Given a magic wand)

- Subsidy/grant approach to regional NBN costs
 - Instead of funding via higher retail download costs
- Reverse 121 POI Decision and restore fairness
 - Or: ACCC Declaration of 'Dark Fibre'
- ACCC Declaration of Wholesale ADSL2+ Services
 - So there is more than one viable and competitive retailer left in regional zones when NBN arrives



Summary:

The crystal ball is a tad cloudy



However:

FTTH NBN is still the best outcome for Australia