

## **SUBMISSION FROM GORDON SHANNON**

I recently had a satellite dish installed to enable me to obtain Broadband Internet as I was fed up waiting for my local phone exchange to be enabled.

My nearest town about 12 kms away is enabled as is the nearest village some 16 kms away and is approximately the same size as here was enabled over 12 months ago.

This Village has Broadband but no 'Call Waiting' or 'Caller ID'. We have those but no Broadband.

The installation of Broadband appears to slavishly follow highway lines and is blinkered so as not to see to either the Left or Right of this chosen path.

I did not want to go satellite although I qualified under the Federal Government Broadband Guarantee and the installation is subsidised because of the very much lower download allowances and monthly costs compared to cable/telephone ADSL system.

Neither Telstra or the other companies are interested in providing any services outside larger groups of population.

Mobile telephone services fare no better which makes wireless internet a haphazard option.

That is if you can get any suitable information from the agencies of the major communication operators.

For several years I was on dialup which limited me to a maximum of 4 hour sessions which may seem reasonable unless you have a need to UP or Download any large files.

One instance of this restricted time became obvious when I needed to obtain a large file to correct a device I had added to my computer. This file was 175mb and I roughly calculated that this would take over 5 hours to download.

After I had been on Dialup for a couple of years, I had a separate telephone line added so that the house number wasn't tied up during the time I was on the internet.

It is not possible for every house throughout Australia to be connected by wire due to the enormous size of Australia and the distances involved but it is annoying when places are within reasonable distance are bypassed in the rush to saturate metropolitan areas with services, mostly those with high money making potential.

I don't believe Broadband by itself is sufficient but needs to be combined with good mobile phone coverage and television that deals with the area in which you live and work.

I made the comment to the Mayor of my local council area that its proclamation of our major city being a 'Learning City' was defeated by the surrounding areas being dumb because they lacked reasonable coverage by the local TV services, Mobile Phones and Broadband Internet.

This may seem drastic but regrettably too true.

I must say the speed difference and the availability to stay on line continuously with Broadband is wonderful but as I was told and expected to find, there are some sites that are slow no matter means is used to access them.

Each area has its own quirks and difficulties that are simply not apparent when you look at maps and localities have ties with other localities that sometimes don't seem to make sense just on paper.

It is this diversity that makes coverage of any service without local knowledge difficult and wasteful if it can't reach its targeted potential.

State schools are being supplied with computers and students in time will be needing one at home that is connected to the internet and be able to obtain whatever information they need for their education and it must be able to download this in a reasonable time as students need not only studies for their Brain but personal activity time for their physical development.

I hope my thoughts are of some assistance to this study.

Gordon Shannon  
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