



## Australia Comes To Grips With The Need For Copper And The Myth of Fiber-Centric Builds

Australia is one of those countries where regulators heavily lobbied by the fiber industry initially bought into the myth of the viability of “fiber everywhere,” making fiber the central focus of the country’s initial National Broadband Network (NBN) plans.

Being the world’s largest government subsidized broadband project, the NGN is truly a “bellweather” worth watching. They have since learned a very valuable lesson that can be beneficial to operators and governments around the world.

### **According to the Strategic Review of the National Broadband Network, published in December 2013:**

“This is not a question of fibre versus copper. The key issue is only how far fibre optics are pushed out into the network and whether they must reach into every home and every business or, whether existing copper infrastructure can be used for the last few hundred metres and in so doing save much time, inconvenience and many billions of dollars.”

*The Hon Malcolm Turnbull, MP- Minister of Communications*

### **The conclusion of the Strategic Review was clear:**

- The pace of the fiber to the premise (FTTH and business) rollout was already 3.5 years late compared to the final project plan, 6 years beyond the original plan, and 11 years later than politicians initially promised
- 33% of premises already “passed” by fiber could not “foreseeably obtain service ”
- An additional 46% of subscribers ‘passed’ by fiber could not expect to order service and get it within “a reasonable and predictable timespan.”
- The cost of completing the fiber-centric project was running 65% over planning projections

- Fiber to the home would increase the average subscriber’s bill by \$43 per month
- The government estimates it had already wasted an estimated \$15 billion.
- The cost of completing a redesigned fiber to the home network going forward would be \$68 billion, \$27 billion greater than the recommended alternative

### **The reports recommendation: Australia’s NBN should use a mixed technology model (MTM), wherein**

- 26% of NBN subscribers would get broadband using fiber to the premises (FTTH or business)
- 30% of subscribers would be served using HFC
- 44% of subscribers would be served using fibre to the node, building or distribution point

This recommendation was no “second choice” due to budget cuts and lack of funding. It was deemed the best course of action based on serving national and consumer interests.

- 91% of premises in the fixed line footprint will have access to download rates of 50 megabits per second or more by 2019
- Between 65 and 75 percent will have 100 megabits per second or more by 2020.

### **VDSL2 will be a key part of next gen broadband roll outs, not just in Australia.**

Actelis can help minimize the cost and maximize the performance of such builds with its VDSL2 Broadband Amplifier (VBA), and can similarly enhance the performance of the installed base of ADSLx with its ADSL Broadband Amplifier (ABA).

*To learn more: [Actelis BBA, Residential Broadband](#)*

**High Performance Broadband over Copper**