

WCOL2019

The effects of the NBN on Open and Distance Learning

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Paper 681

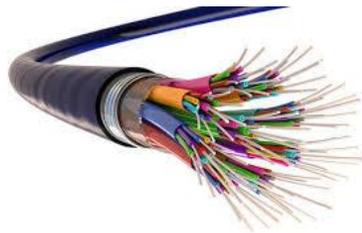
Session 05.09 Liffey Meeting Room 4

Agenda

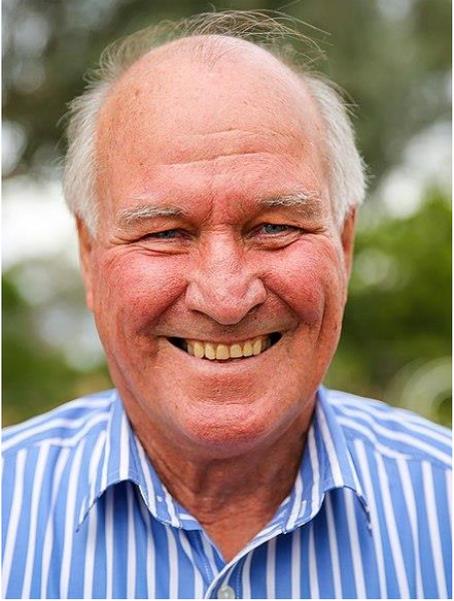
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Defining the National Broadband Network (NBN)
- ▶ The nature of the research reported in this study
- ▶ The Broadband Wars
- ▶ The research participants
- ▶ Data
- ▶ Why it counts: Students enrolled to study online
- ▶ Further research opportunities

Introduction

- ▶ It is now common knowledge that ‘to study online can be a very isolating experience.
- ▶ To become successful in online study students require all the assistance that they can get along the way.
- ▶ I propose that the availability of the broadband (BB) network can make the life of students enrolled online much easier.
- ▶ If you do not have broadband then you most likely have ADSL. This means that you are most likely familiar with what some may call “the rotating inverted bell of death”
- ▶ The fibre-optic Fibre-optic cable: facilitating Broadband Network



Research in the broadband network 'The Broadband Wars 2010- 2018'

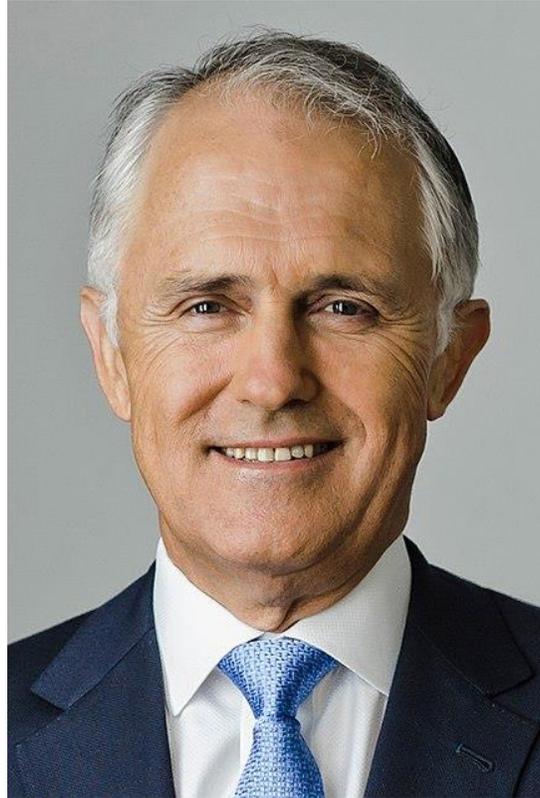


'Do it right, Do it once, Do it with Fibre'

Tony Windsor: Former member
for New England.

In a Hung Parliament Supported
Julia Gillard enabling the Labor
Govt to form Govt in 2013.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBHJo4HPTGY>



Malcolm Turnbull
Former PM of Australia 2015-2018.
Tried to use an outdated
System of the use of copper
To provide Broadband

Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard: The Labor Movement 2007-2017



Kevin Rudd: PM - Labor 2007-June 2010.
June- Sept 2013
Introduced Broadband in Australia in
2011



Julia Gillard; 27th PM. 2010-2013.
As PM extended Broadband
To Rural and regional Australia
Using fibre-optic technology

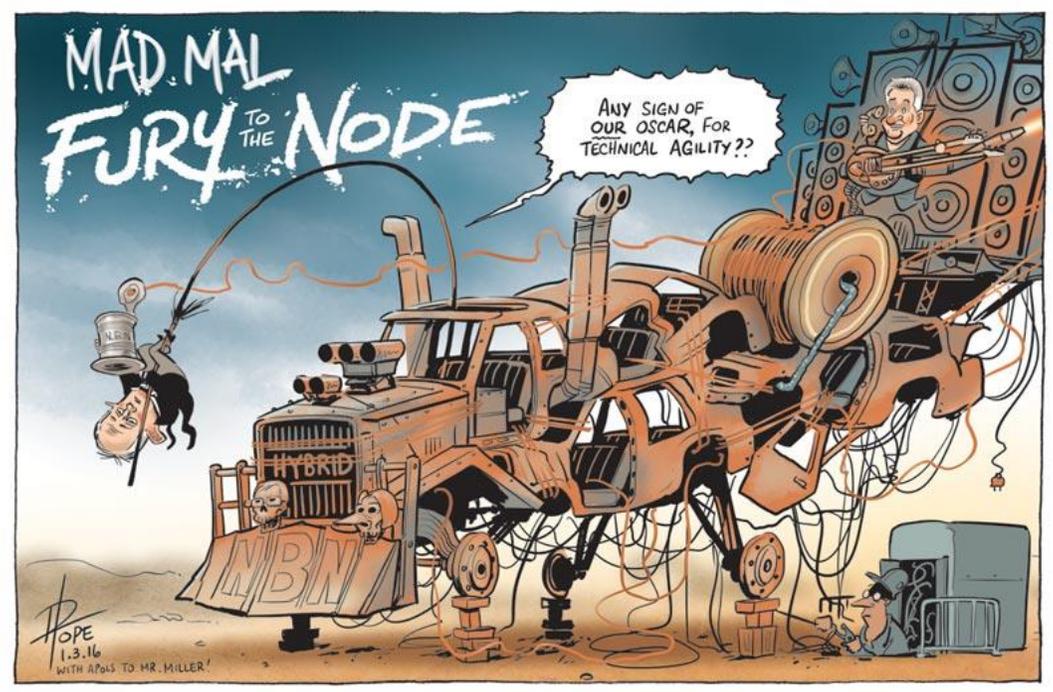
The nbn in Australia - A metamorphosis



The NBN initially represented a company. Later, it morphed into the fast internet known as the Broadband Network

Defining the National Broadband Network- NBN

- ▶ Since the launch of the NBN in Australia in 2011
- ▶ different PMs have viewed it differently



Research participants

- ▶ 21 University Students studying online all with families abroad. 16 male and 5 female
- ▶ 8 Business owners (Florist, clothes line, local govt, café owner Data retention business)
- ▶ Year 2014
- ▶ For purposes of reporting this data, more emphasis will be on students studying online as a way of remaining faithful to the theme of this conference as well as remaining relevant to the audience.

Data

- ▶ For purposes of this report, I will only focus on data from university students studying online
- ▶ What they were responding to:
- ▶ What do you consider to be benefits of the NBN to you and tell me if there are any negatives that you see.
- ▶ Benefits (**Ways in which the NBN has been transformative, changing lives**)
- ▶ 1. **Faster internet**, offering **faster download speeds and faster upload speeds**
- ▶ I can **download podcasts easily** and search for content faster on the internet making **doing research easier and less frustrating**. You can submit your assignments with ease
- ▶ 2. **I can communicate with family overseas without the fear of the line dropping out**. I regularly use Skype to keep in touch with family. The broadband network is a big help.
- ▶ 3. Entertainment: Using the NBN I can stream movies and keep the family entertained.
- ▶ 4. **Wifi technology in the house**. Using Wifi technology, many family members can be online at the same time.
- ▶ **Internet banking is safe and secure**
- ▶

Why the data counts

- ▶ It is estimated that between 2017- 2022 internet usage will increase nearly sevenfold (Clement 2017)
- ▶ As of February 2019, mobile devices accounted for 48% of webpage views worldwide. While Asia and Africa are leaders in this area, broadband penetration has a higher uptake in the Americas and in Europe with 91% and 93% respectively.
- ▶ Does Australia have the NBN throughout the country? No! There are still large chunks of the country where the NBN has not been installed. We are still a long way before we can comfortably say that we are on the Information Super Highway.
- ▶ When the NBN was introduced to Armidale, the medical school of rural medicine carried out a few trial runs in collaboration with universities in the US that had rural medical programs. Students at UNE could watch operations in the US carried out virtually. While that is one of the perceived benefits of the NBN that research is beyond what I carried out in my research.

Opportunities of further research

- ▶ As mentioned, it would be necessary to go beyond the school of Education and investigate other sectors that can speak to this research.
- ▶ The medical school, businesses and the local council.

Armidale is a small regional city between Sydney and Brisbane in Australia

Map of New South Wales



Population
Around 26K

UNE has 85% of
Students studying
online

Armidale is about 520 km North of
Sydney
and 485 km south of Brisbane