



Australian Smart Communities Association (Broadband Alliance Inc.)  
PO BOX 288  
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2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016

Secretary  
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
The Senate  
PO BOX 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

[ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Access Regime and NBN Companies) Bill 2015**

The Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee in response to the Paper Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Access Regime and NBN Companies) Bill 2015.

The adoption of smart technology in city / town management, energy, water, health and transport, along with high speed ubiquitous broadband, could bring 1.5% growth to Australia Gross Domestic Product within five years. ASCA wants all Australian communities to have the infrastructure and capacity, and to demonstrate the innovation, to forge thriving digital economies.

Smart Infrastructure can be described as anything 'material' that aids faster, more reliable connectivity to a Smart Community. It includes fixed line telecommunications, wireless / WiFi and data centre services, as well as the tools required to plan and implement enhanced digital infrastructure.

The NBN will underpin the continued evolution of new connectivity infrastructure technologies. The ASCA strongly supports all measures that encourage competition for service providers, the ability for NBN to conduct relevant pilots / trials and the opening up of interconnection to listed points on the NBN network. The ASCA supports all measures that support ensuring that superfast services are reasonably accessible to all people in Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. If the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee wishes to discuss any of these matters further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Whereat".

Michael Whereat  
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About the Australian Smart Communities Association:

Australian Smart Communities Association, (ASCA) formerly Broadband Today Alliance (BTA) started as a collaborative coalition of local government, RDA and Regional Organisations of Councils' (ROCs) built on the premise of sharing information and advocating for the resources to assist the localised transition to a digital economy.

ASCA has a vision for Australia to significantly advance its digital economy. As a member-based organisation with representatives from Government, business / industry and communities across Australia, we reflect the three sectors that need to take action.

The ASCA is rapidly becoming the Peak Industry Association in Australia for Smart Digital Community, Broadband and Digital Economic development.