



26 February 2008

Mr Richard Home
General Manager
Strategic Analysis and Development Branch
Communications Group
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
By email

Dear Richard

Proposed Variation of the Service Declaration for the ULLS

I refer to the ACCC's Position Paper of December 2007 in respect of the proposed variation of the service declaration for the Unconditioned Local Loop Service.

This letter sets out the views of the G9 in response to the Position Paper.

Variation required due to a fibre network rollout

I note the ACCC's position that variation of the ULLS declaration for the purposes of sub-loop access should follow any decision on the G9's proposed legislative amendment to allow for 100 per cent cutover of all copper lines.

The G9 does not accept the ACCC's position on this matter. We consider that 100 per cent cutover of all copper lines is crucial to the economics of deploying a fibre to the node (FTTN) network, and that the ULLS service description will need to be varied in a timely manner to accommodate this.

Variation required in the absence of a fibre network rollout

Notwithstanding our above comments, we note that the ACCC has proposed to vary the current ULLS service description to allow for connection at a "concentration point" (in addition to the current allowance for connection at a "customer access module"). We note that the ACCC's rationale for this variation is to make the service description more technically and functionally neutral.

The G9 supports the ACCC's proposed variation, and agrees that it would make the service description more technically and functionally neutral.

We note, however, that the proposed definition of "concentration point" is somewhat circular and potentially confusing, since it refers to the defined term. "i.e.: **concentration point** is a technically feasible concentration point...". We recommend that this definition be clarified prior to the issuing of the revised service definition for ULLS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Sheridan
On Behalf of the G9