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From: Alistair Lane

Sent: Monday, 6 October 2003 4:06 p.m.

To: osmond.borthwick@comcom.govt.nz

Subject: Unbundling of the local loop

Dear Mr Borthwick,

Perhaps not the appropriate channel to email you directly(?) but, in short, I wanted to throw in my penny's worth of support for the unbundling of the local loop from an IT professional's perspective.

I have lived in the UK for the past decade and read many a story about and experienced how the slow unbundling of the local has been used by BT to strangle new technologies until they have "milked" the old ones (ISDN being a case in point vs ADSL). Although being rolled out quite extensively there, the negative effect of the delays are still bemoaned.

To give myself as an example in New Zealand (having moved back from the UK last year); I work in a semi-rural area, still contracting to a UK company and find the lack of internet access options available very frustrating. Satellite connections available here (through Ultra) still rely on a dial-up connection for upstream traffic (unlike in the US where direct comms via satellite are supported in both directions) which means that such things as video-links and the like are still out of bounds as they require broadband in both directions. There is also a higher capital cost to the end user with reliable satellite connections (the dishes Ultra hand out at low cost do not give a sufficiently reliable connection for professional use). Walker wireless isn't yet available and seemed quite expensive.

Finally, whilst in Europe recently, NZ connection availability and cost for speed was an embarrassment for me when trying to defend my choice to live here in NZ.

So, all in all, roll on loop unbundling. I believe unbundling and the resulting competition will be very good for the national communications industry and from there, the entire NZ tech industry, if followed through properly by government (and BT is, I understand, a prime example of how an incumbent monopoly can slow things down). Even my cousin who works a farm in the Waikato region is intensely interested in broadband.

10/9/2003

Best regards,

Alistair.

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Dr. Alistair Lane
President, ExcelLane
Email: Alistair.Lane@excellane.com