



**Press Release Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 8, 2009**

## **Comment on Rudd Government Broadband Super Highway**

2020 information technology contributor Tony Robinson urges the Rudd Government to rollout the new fibre optic broadband to industry clusters first.

He argues that the infrastructure is already in place for areas such as NorWest Park and Smithfield and this is serviced by industry support groups such as the Western Sydney Information Technology Cluster which has 1500 ICT firms as members.

Australia's pressing need is not to be left behind in the technology race. As change is occurring in ever decreasing increments we need to develop strategies that give us access to the tools that are generating these changes. Our thinking has to be global knowledge, global resources and global tools.

The aim for the next 8 years should be to create sets of virtual global clusters allowing us to use the best mix of resources to get the most advantageous results. We have the opportunity to create an unfettered Australian Cluster Model that would have a competitive advantage over the countries where their cluster models are becoming bogged down by administration.

Today we should approach industry giants such as Google and Cisco to plan for a cluster web portal so that we can hit the ground running when connectivity takes place.

With speeds of up to 100 megabits per second, our capability will be the envy of the world, and our ICT companies will be in the front seat to develop applications for when the rest of the world catches up. High speed underwater cables already connect Australia to Asian market and to the USA. Taking advantage of the global pool of knowledge and skills should be our goal over the next decade.