



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

08/001/M

8 April 2008

PREMIER SHOULD STAND UP FOR FAST BROADBAND IN REGIONAL WA

Senator Mathias Cormann has called on the Premier Alan Carpenter to stand up for rural and regional Western Australia and demand the Rudd Government overturn its scandalous decision to dishonour the agreement for the OPEL broadband network.

Senator Cormann said the Rudd Government's decision would deny hundreds of thousands of Western Australians the opportunity to have access to fast broadband services by the end of 2009.

"This is a cruel blow to rural and regional Western Australia," Senator Cormann said.

"Practically for the people of Western Australia, the Federal Government's decision means Western Australia will miss out on 111 WiMAX base stations deployed with specific broadband technology and ADSL2+ technology in 28 Telstra exchanges.

"Using that technology, the contract which was cancelled and included \$958 million in Federal funding would have delivered fast and reliable broadband services to hundreds of thousands of Western Australians by the end of 2009.

"People living in rural and regional Western Australia should not be denied access to fast, reliable and affordable broadband.

"Under the Rudd Government's plan, they will have to wait until at least 2014 to get access to what will be even then less reliable services.

"The Premier now has an obligation to take up the fight on behalf of those Western Australians living in rural and regional areas.

"Rather than leading Kevin Rudd's cheer squad in Western Australia, Alan Carpenter must stand up and demand a fair go for rural and regional Western Australia