

“OptiComm probably has the widest and most extensive experience within Australia of fibre-to-the-premise GPON deployments,” Mr Cross said.

“Many of our employees have been involved in fibre to the premise for more than 10 years, and we have had to compete with a virtual monopoly through all of that period – that is, Telstra.”

He said Telstra through its market power and control of key infrastructure had long dominated fibre-to-the-premise rollouts and services for the vast majority of current greenfield developers and their residents.

“We therefore hope that it is not the intent or the outcome of this legislation that we see the minister’s much heralded structural reform of the telecommunications industry result in even less competition in greenfields,” Mr Cross said.

“This, we fear, could be the outcome for greenfields should we see government policy resulting in NBN Co simply replacing Telstra as the incumbent monopoly and perhaps being even further out of reach of competition due to additional legislation.”

In response the chief executive of NBN Co Mike Quigley said they had looked at using a number of possible suppliers to rollout broadband for new housing developments but had opted for Fujitsu as their one major partner because of the complexity of dealing with numerous technologies and numerous systems.

“Trying to integrate all of that would have been quite a difficult job,” he told MPs, at the same time questioning whether the smaller suppliers would have had the capability. •

LINKS

www.aph.gov.au/jcnbn
jcnbn@aph.gov.au
 (02) 6277 2322

For the latest news from
 House of Representatives
 committees, visit
www.aph.gov.au/ath



THINKSTOCK

JUMPING ON BOARD: *Commercial links with Asian giants examined*

Focus on North Asia trade

Australia’s productivity would benefit by further developing the trading relationship with Japan and South Korea, according to the chair of a new parliamentary trade inquiry.

“It is important for Australia’s productivity to ensure that we strengthen our trading partnerships with these two countries, investigate how companies can take advantage of this and look at what the Australian government can do to strengthen trade ties,” Janelle Saffin (Page, NSW) said when announcing the latest review by federal parliament’s Trade Committee.

The inquiry will focus on the nature of Australia’s existing trade relations and will track emerging and future trends. It will also identify barriers to trade and investment, and examine the role of government to assist Australian companies take advantage of opportunities in the region.

Two way trade between Australia and the north Asian giants is already worth more than \$89 billion annually, making Japan and South Korea Australia’s second and fourth largest trading partners respectively.

Last year trade with Japan reached \$61 billion, including \$43 billion in exports, largely consisting of minerals, metals and beef. Japan also invested more than \$117 billion in Australia in 2010.

South Korea imported \$20 billion worth of Australian goods and two way investment totalled more than \$16 billion.

The committee wants to hear from industry, peak associations, academics, government agencies and individuals. •

LINKS

www.aph.gov.au/jfadt
jscfadt@aph.gov.au
 (02) 6277 2313