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To: The ACCC By Email: <u>fixedline@accc.gov.au</u>

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Internet Association of Australia (IAA) perspective on the *Wholesale ADSL Declaration (WADSL) Inquiry Consultation and Position Paper 2021* (Position Paper).

IAA supports the ACCC's view that the WADSL Declaration should be extended until 30 June 2024. Although the Position Paper notes that demand for WADSL and ADSL services has fallen, we believe this is not necessarily the case in remote, rural and regional areas. In those locations, competition is weak as Telstra operates its copper access network without much opposition. It is our understanding that a fair number of consumers still rely on continuing access to a declared WADSL, which will be necessary until an equivalent or better service from NBN Co becomes available.

Once again, I would like to thank you for providing us with the opportunity to contribute to the *Wholesale ADSL Declaration (WADSL) Inquiry Consultation and Position Paper 2021.*

About the Internet Association of Australia

The Internet Association of Australia Inc (IAA) is a member-based association representing the Internet community. Founded in 1995, as the Western Australian Internet Association (WAIA), the Association changed its name in early 2016 to better reflect our national membership and growth.

Our members comprise industry professionals, corporations and affiliate organisations. IAA provides a range of services and resources for members and supports the development of the Internet industry both within Australia and internationally. Providing technical services as well as social and professional development events, IAA aims to provide services and resources that our members need.

IX-Australia is a service provided by the Internet Association of Australia to Corporate and Affiliate members. It is the longest running and lowest cost Internet Exchange in Australia. Spanning six states and territories, IAA operates over 30 points of presence and operates the New Zealand Internet Exchange on behalf of NZIX Inc in New Zealand.

IAA is also a licenced telecommunications carrier, and operates on a not-for-profit basis.

Yours faithfully,

Narelle Clark Chief Executive Officer Internet Association of Australia