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Submitted values are:

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Full-Fibre Last-Mile and Minimum 100 Mbps Upload, Phasing Out All Sub-100 Mbps Upload Tiers

Short comment
Many last-mile broadband connections in Australia, especially those capped at 25 Mbps and running over older non-FTTP technologies like Fibre to the Node or Hybrid Fibre Coaxial, suffer more than just slow speeds. When rainwater seeps into underground pits, conduits or cable joins it alters the copper or coaxial lines' impedance and resistance, increasing signal attenuation and noise. In practice this leads to packet loss, frequent drop-outs, higher latency, jitter and reduced throughput during bad weather. Users often see glitchy video calls, buffering while streaming, lag in online games or smart-home devices such as cameras and doorbells disconnecting unexpectedly.

Users will notice this across all applications: voice over Wi-Fi calls drop unexpectedly and audio stutters; video conferencing on Zoom, Teams and Google Meet freeze, pixelate or disconnect; live streams buffer or lose frames; online gaming suffers high ping, jitter and rubber-banding; cloud backups and large file uploads become painfully slow or time out; smart-home devices such as security cameras and video doorbells cut out or fail to record; remote work tools like VPNs and remote desktop sessions freeze or disconnect; and telehealth consultations and virtual learning sessions are interrupted by poor audiovisual quality and require repeated reconnects.

This level of performance is entirely unsuitable for a modern, well connected metro network.

In my view, the only way to deliver truly robust, modern and high-speed internet in Australia is to replace these last-mile copper and coaxial connections with full-fibre to the premises. Although fibre is already available to much of the population, plan prices remain a barrier. In 2025, major cities overseas typically offer gigabit-class fibre for reasonable monthly fees because upgrading speeds over fibre costs next to nothing. Here, we pay significantly more for much less performance.

A basic plan offering 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload for $40 per month would be ideal for individuals, students, the elderly and people with disabilities. A mid-tier plan of 500 Mbps download and 200 Mbps upload for $70 per month would suit most families. A high-speed option offering 1000 Mbps download and 500 Mbps upload for $80 per month would support power users, remote workers and smart homes. Given how critical upload performance is for modern applications, any plan with less than 100 Mbps upload should be withdrawn ASAP as they are not suitable for modern applications and devices.

Low-upload tiers also suffer from bufferbloat, where even a small upload task such as sending a

photo or a cloud backup can choke the entire connection and further degrade performance across every application.

To compete with global ISPs, Australian retail providers need much lower NBN wholesale costs. Where fibre already exists, the gap between download and upload speeds must be closed because both directions are equally essential for a fast, stable and future-proof internet experience in 2026.

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