



## **Some Possible Public Policy Aspects of the Future of the Internet**

Australia – Tom Dale

The following framework for research and analysis leading to policy advice and decision-making is suggested as a simple means of taking the issue forward within governments and elsewhere in the lead-up to the 2008 OECD Ministerial.

- A. Internet architecture and standards, including structural and institutional arrangements, the domain name addressing system and the world wide web interface.
  - Who (if anyone) is responsible for what.
  - Interoperability: Commercial and non-commercial drivers.
- B. The reliability of the Internet as public and private infrastructure, including the likelihood and consequences of failure.
  - Mapping critical infrastructure components.
  - Scenarios: Reliability testing and consequences.
- C. Internet-based economic and commercial developments, including new business models and distribution structures.
  - Productivity impacts.
  - Workforce impacts.
  - Generational change.
  - Skills issues.
- D. Internet-based social developments, including enhanced information and communications access.
  - Workforce impacts.
  - Generational change (including consumer expectations)
  - Social structures.
  - Democratic structures.
- E. Digital content issues including both economic and social aspects.
  - ICT and creative industries.
  - User created content.
- F. The role of the Internet in facilitating innovation and the development of human capital.
  - R&D collaboration (e-research)
  - Intra-firm collaboration : Ideas are more than the sum of their parts

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