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Icebox eyesores

About 60,000 cabinets that resemble stretched out refrigerators will be installed on footpaths under the Coalition's NBN, which has worried urban designers.

"Let me choose my words fairly carefully," said Alec Tzannes, Dean of the faculty of the built environment at the University of NSW, "I think it's hideous".

Labor's version of the NBN also requires 60,000 cabinets. But they are shorter and about half the width of those required under the Coalition plan. Unlike the Coalition's cabinets, Labor's do not require power.

Jonathan Swan