

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 212

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Page 101-102, 104-105

Topic: 70.4 Megabits – Blend of FTTN and FTTB

Senator O’Neill, Deborah asked:

Senator O’NEILL: In the minister's speech to CommsDay on 12 April, the minister made the following statement:

Across nbn's Fibre to the Node and Fibre to the Basement networks, the national average attainable rate—that is, the rate that each line is technically capable of delivering—is 70.4 megabits per second.

The average attainable rate is 70.4 megabits per second. Is that a blend of FTTN and FTTB?

Mr Morrow: Yes.

Senator O’NEILL: Can you separate them out for me?

Mr Simon: We could, but we do not have that information in front of us.

Mr Morrow: We can take that on notice. We certainly can; we have the capability to do that.

Senator O’NEILL: Can you give me a rough idea?

Mr Morrow: I would say that 'N' is going to be less than—if you pull out the 'B', which is a small number, it is going to be less than because the copper distance on—

Senator O’NEILL: Hold on; if we pull out the fibre to the basement—

Mr Morrow: If you separated fibre to the basement, because you have fibre going up to the basement of a building, and the copper links going up to the top apartment—

CHAIR: Senator O’Neill, can I just clarify? Have you asked them to answer the question they said they would take on notice, or is this now a new question?

Senator O’NEILL: I think we are pretty close to figuring it out.

Mr Morrow: It is new.

Senator O’NEILL: And it is the next step along.

CHAIR: It is going to be a very long night if they take it on notice and you still go through and ask the questions anyway, Senator O’Neill.

Senator O’NEILL: FTTB, FTTN, separated out—how do we go?

Mr Morrow: If you separate out the copper, distance will be, on average, less in a building—a multi-dwelling unit—than it will be going down the street. So you can assume from that that the average of an N isolated by itself is lower than the average of a B isolated by itself. The exact number we would have to take on notice.

Senator O’NEILL: Please provide that as soon as possible. If somebody could look it up, that would be great. I am sure you must have those numbers somewhere.

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Senator O’NEILL: The technology upgrade to one gigabyte we have talked about, but can I come back to 100 megabytes per second for FTTN services. What percentage of FTTN service buyers can actually achieve an attainable rate of one megabyte per second?

Mr Morrow: Of 100 megabytes per second?

Senator O’NEILL: Yes.

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Mr Morrow: That will be the curve that we will provide you that we have taken on notice. That will show that.

Senator O'NEILL: Of course it varies from place to place. What is the stand-alone average of FTTN?

Mr Morrow: I am sorry. What is the—

Senator O'NEILL: What is the stand-alone average? The straight up.

Mr Morrow: That is the 70 that the minister mentioned in his speech for both FTTN and FTTB, and we will provide that.

Senator O'NEILL: FTTN only?

Mr Morrow: We have taken that on notice. And how much less, we will take on notice and come back with an answer for you.

Senator O'NEILL: You really do not know roughly?

Mr Morrow: I would not venture to guess.

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Senator O'NEILL: Mr Rue, you have some figures there. Can you help out?

Mr Rue: No, it is a question on notice but it is not quite what you asked. The highest revenue is \$157,000. That is the highest cost—\$157,000—but that was fixed wireless.

Mr Simon: That was fixed wireless. That is not NTTB.

Senator O'NEILL: So that was a fixed upgrade for someone who wanted to grow their business I expect, or something. If you desegregate the FTTN and FTTB, you cannot give me a ballpark figure of the percentage of FTTN services that can get that 100 megabytes per second?

Mr Morrow: Again, I do not think it is going to be materially lower. I am thinking statistics and maths here for a moment. If you take 200 off that two million that is not going to skew your average that much. But, again, to make sure we give you the accurate picture, let us go back and give you that data.

Senator O'NEILL: So pull a number out of the air and wonder if it was right. What is the average attainable upload speed on the FTTN network?

Mr Simon: Upload? We can grab that information, just like we will for the question on notice.

Answer:

Mr Morrow provided a response during the hearing regarding the average attainable download rate over FTTN and FTTB. He advised that they are 67.7Mbps and 101.6Mbps, respectively.

Approximately 65 per cent of FTTN services can achieve between 50 and 100Mbps. These results are also subject to co-existence profile settings, which reduces performance to prevent interference with legacy services during the 18 month migration window. Following switch-off of legacy copper services after this period, the Layer 2 attainable bitrate (speeds) will increase. The numbers also reflect the impact of other factors such as any in-home wiring issues, which can affect attainable speeds.

The average attainable upload speed on FTTN services is 30.63Mbps.