

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Spill-over Hearing June 2017

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 368

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/08/2017

Topic: West Coast Tasmania NBN

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. I understand that the NBNC Co is going to incorporate FTTC in the NBN rollout for Queenstown, Rosebery and Zeehan.
 - (a) Please provide the exact number of premises to be serviced by FTTC and by FTTN in each of these locations.
 - (b) Please outline why FTTC will not be rolled out to all premises within these locations.
 - (c) What is the difference in cost between FTTN and FTTC for Queenstown, Zeehan and Rosebery?
 - (d) What is the difference in reliability of FTTC and FTTN for Queenstown, Zeehan and Rosebery?
 - (e) Why were Queenstown, Zeehan and Rosebery not included in the list of FTTC trial sites NBNC Co announced in June 2017?
 - (f) Will all premises within those towns and suburbs in the FTTC trial site list receive FTTC? If not, what proportion will and how does that compare to Queenstown, Zeehan and Rosebery?
2. What is the current expected start date of construction and ready for service date for Queenstown, Zeehan and Rosebery?
3. Which contractors and sub-contractors are engaged on the rollout?
4. Are any residents of the West Coast engaged as staff, contractors or sub-contractors on the rollout?
5. How are NBN Co and these contractors and sub-contractors advertising job opportunities for people who live on the West Coast and ensuring locals from have an opportunity to apply for some of the work?
6. What accommodation arrangements have been made for contractors and sub-contractors from outside of the West Coast?

Answer:

1.
 - (a) The extent of FTTC, if any is to be used in these areas, will be determined during the detailed design process. Any utilisation of FTTC is likely to be very limited and only used in cases where premises are hard to service by FTTN.

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- (b) nbn chooses the most appropriate technology for each area. It is dependent on a number of factors. Detailed design was well advanced for the West Coast prior to FTTC becoming a broad scale option for the FTTX footprint.
 - (c) As above it depends on a number of factors.
 - (d) FTTC has not been deployed yet.
 - (e) The initial trial sites were in the old Optus HFC footprint, which did not extend to Tasmania. nbn made the decision to do the initial FTTC rollout in these areas to ensure a large, contiguous footprint that would be attractive to RSPs to test and sell a new product.
 - (f) nbn deploys technologies according to the Multi Technology Mix policy, under which the company chooses the most appropriate technology for each area. Planning and deployment is based on rollout regions, rather than towns or suburbs, and as such nbn isn't able to provide definitive advice based on such locality boundaries.
2. nbn expects related construction work to commence in the second half of 2017, working towards a ready for service target of the second half of 2018 for Queenstown, Rosebery and Zeehan.
 3. Visionstream have been engaged as the lead contractor who will engage with subcontractors commercially to undertake the construction activities. As always, nbn encourages our contractors to engage with subcontractors from within the local communities where the required skillset and resources exist.
 4. This question would need to be directed to the contractors, but nbn encourages contractors to engage subcontractors from local communities where the required skillset and resources exist
 5. This is a decision for the contractors.
 6. This question would need to be directed to the contractors and sub-contractors.