

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 82

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Interim Statement of Expectations

Senator Urquhart asked:

The Minister issued the company with an interim Statement of Expectations on 24 September and conducted a press conference:

- a. At the press conference Minister Turnbull said “A key priority will be to reduce the backlog of 66,000 premises passed by the NBN Co network which can’t currently obtain a service.” How many of those 66,000 can now obtain a service? What did NBN Co have to do to make it possible for them to obtain a service? Did what NBN Co do vary in any way from the actions that were already in place under previous management?
- b. The Minister also said “Detailed network design work is underway in areas containing a further 645,000 premises. In geographic areas where NBN Co is in a position to hand over final designs to construction partners, some of these sites may see construction work begin shortly.” For which sites has NBN Co handed over final designs? How many premises does this cover? What impediments are there to commencing the build phase for the remainder?
- c. The Minister also said “There are also more than 900,000 premises listed on the one year rollout plan on the NBN Co website where only preliminary network design work is underway. Decisions about actual construction in these areas will be taken after the reviews into the NBN rollout are completed.” Now the Strategic Review is completed what decisions have been taken in relation to these sites?

Answer:

- a. Of the 66,104 Service Class 0 premises (at 24 September 2013) 20,180 had been progressed into Service Class 1, 2 or 3 as at 12 May 2014. This has been made possible through a number of methods, including network augmentation and progression of Multiple Dwelling Units (MDU) developments.
- b. The sites that have moved from the detailed design phase to build commenced have been added to the NBN Co website map as ‘build commenced’. The website is updated each month to reflect the FSAMs that changed to ‘build commenced’ in the preceding month. NBN Co is developing design rules to determine which FSAMs should be continued with FTTP. These will include such considerations as cost to build and the priority areas as identified by the *Broadband Quality and Availability* report.
- c. Following its consideration of the Strategic Review, the Government provided a new *Statement of Expectations* to NBN Co on 8 April 2014. NBN Co is in the process of now finalising an integrated rollout plan after which the details of planned construction in areas where a detailed design has been complete will be made known.