

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0476_12

Senator Mason asked on 2/06/2011, Hansard page 65.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No [EW0861 11](#) and [EW0651 11](#).

Question

DER- First Release Sites

Senator MASON: Yes. We better clarify the question. The answer to the question on notice says, 'Seven schools within the five first release sites will be connected to the NBN.' The question is: how many schools are in those five first release sites? Do you understand? Dr Bruniges: Absolutely. Senator MASON: The question would then be, if there are more schools why aren't these schools also being connected? That would be my next question, but if you do not know now, please take that on notice. If you read the question on notice—I am always very careful, as you know, Minister, or my staff are anyway, to be sure—it says, 'Seven schools within the five first release sites will be connected to the NBN.' Does that mean that they have not yet been connected? If that is the case, do you know when they will be connected? Ms Paul: Senator, I do not believe that they have yet been connected but, again, we can confirm that and take it on notice.

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has consulted with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the relevant government and non-government schools authorities in providing the following response.

According to 2010 DEEWR data, there are 10 schools located in the five first release sites. Of these, three schools have reported existing fibre connections. DEEWR confirms that there are seven schools within the five first release sites that have not reported fibre connections. These schools will be able to take up a connection once the National Broadband Network (NBN) is deployed in their region. The decision to connect to the NBN will be made by the responsible school authority.

DEEWR has contacted the relevant schools authorities for the seven schools without fibre connections in the five first release sites. At 30 June 2011, Willunga High School and Presbyterian Ladies College Armidale are connected to the NBN. At this time, there is no further information available on when the other schools may be connected to the NBN.