Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network Answers to Questions on Notice Committee Hearing 15 August 2018 NBN Co Limited

Question No: 18

NBN Co Limited

Topic: Timing of fixed wireless bundle

Mr Brian Mitchell, MP asked:

- 1. Did NBN Co present a \$65 fixed-wireless bundle (50 Mbps) to the telecommunications industry on 15 August 2018?
- 2. Was the \$65 fixed-wireless bundle (50 Mbps), presented on 15 August, as a decision of NBN Co?
- 3. Was the \$65 fixed-wireles bundle (50 Mbps), present on 15 August, due to come into effect on 20 August 2018?

Answer:

1. In May 2018, nbn released an industry consultation paper detailing the proposed introduction of Fixed Wireless (FW) bundle discounts, similar to the model adopted for high-bandwidth bundle discounts for fixed line services.

This was at the request of nbn's RSP customers so they can transition all services on a Basic CVC (including both fixed line and FW) to a bundled CVC. This consultation paper contained an optional \$65 50Mbps bundle for new end-users. All of the bundles proposed were interim options that would allow broadband retailers to purchase bundled fixed wireless products in the short-term while NBN Co continues to work with industry on a long term bundled fixed wireless product.

On 15 August, nbn presented a paper to industry which contained an optional \$65 bundle for new end-users, consistent with the proposal released in May. This would have been in addition to current AVC pricing and there would be no obligation whatsoever for retailers to stop selling current plans if they wished.

- 2. It was presented as the result of consultation with industry.
- 3. Yes, but not for existing users and only if retailers chose to continue to acquire new 50Mbps services as either new customers or service upgrades. For retailers seeking to maximise economies of scale from putting all their existing customers onto the same bundled CVC, their 50Mbps services would have been charged at \$45. As former CEO Bill Morrow advised at NBN Co's full year results presentation on 16 August 2018, the company chose to withdraw this proposed interim product for new users, leaving prices for 50Mbps products unchanged and consistent across fixed line and fixed wireless services.