

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 30 October 2012
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 4

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: NBN Rollout

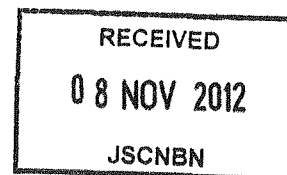
The Committee asked:

The NBN Co has commented in the media that the ACCC decision on the Telstra SSU delayed the NBN rollout. The NBN Co 2011- 2013 Corporate Plan outlined the date for finalisation of the Telstra Agreement as June 2011. The ACCC has stated that it did not receive the Telstra SSU until July 2011, can you explain how the ACCC contributed if at all to the delay in the NBN rollout with its consideration of the Telstra SSU?

Answer:

Mr Quigley stated in the JCNBN Hearing on 30 October 2012:

“We are not suggesting that the ACCC contributed to the delay. We anticipated in December 2010 that we could start using the national duct data from Telstra which we need to do all the things that Mr Steffens has spoken about by June 2011. That was probably optimistic. We underestimated the length, time and complexity of reaching the final agreement with Telstra and we also did not anticipate the fact that the deal could not commence until after the Telstra SSU, nor how long that would take. It did not occur until March, so we could not get the national duct data until then. We could not do the design process that we talked about earlier.”



@ 6.20 pm

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Question No: 5

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: NBN Rollout

The Committee asked:

On page 19 of the 2012-2015 NBN Co Corporate Plan it states that access to NBN is determined by design principles that balanced the Government's aim of providing the NBN to every Australian premises and the need to work efficiently and cost effectively.

a. Can you provide detail about what is involved in the determination of rollout sites?

Answer:

A document is provided on NBN Co's website (see link below) describing the planning mechanisms used by NBN Co to select Fibre Serving Areas (FSA) for deployment. The document details the rules governing the FSA process and gives a description of the algorithm that implements those rules.

www.nbnco.com.au/assets/documents/fibre-planning-fsa-scheduling.pdf

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Question No: 8

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Switchover for apartment/unit blocks

The Committee asked:

What is the current process for installing and activating a fibre connection into apartment/unit blocks?

Does this process take longer for apartment blocks than for houses? If so, why?

Answer:

The NBN Co 2012-15 Corporate Plan (see p. 45) makes the following assumptions in regard to the design and cabling of all end-user units inside Multiple Dwelling Units (MDUs):

- NBN Co will build, at the same time, the Local network and the drop inside the MDU ('Build Drop'), from the Network Access Point to the Premise Connection Device (PCD) for each premise in the MDU; and
- NBN Co will need to have a higher degree of engagement with body corporate entities and undertake site surveys ahead of time, incurring detailed design and installation costs for the internal cabling of MDUs.

The installation process in apartment blocks does take longer than in a single dwelling unit because multi-dwelling units require multiple connections to multiple PCDs.

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Question No: 33

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Medical Alarms

The Committee asked:

Is the NBN power supply unit and battery backup required to supply power to the UNI-V ports to support medical alarms provided at no cost to the consumer at the time of the NBN installation? If so, who pays for the battery backup unit when a new medical alarm is required for a householder who has an existing NBN service but is without battery backup?

Answer:

Yes, it is provided at no cost to the end-user as part of a standard installation. If a customer requests a battery backup unit to be installed to support an existing NBN connection it is also proposed that this would be provided at no cost to the end user. NBN Co is working with Government and industry to implement the Battery Back-up policy.

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Question No: 36

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Regional and Remote: Community Engagement and Education

The Committee asked:

How many retail service providers are offering services to rural and regional areas and how does this compare to urban areas?

Answer:

The majority of service providers offering services over the National Broadband Network (NBN) are currently doing so in multiple regions (urban, regional and rural areas). A list of service providers is available from the NBN Co website at <http://www.nbnco.com.au/getting-connected/certified-service-providers.html?icid=pub:home:find-a-sp:bod:txt>