

Answers to Questions on Notice

Public Hearing 30 October 2012

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 37

Hansard ref: In writing

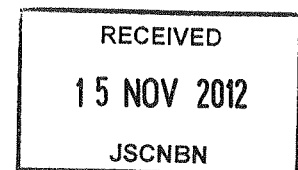
Topic: Community Engagement and Education

The Committee asked:

What has been the level and quality of broadband being received by active NBN connections in rural and remote communities?

Answer:

Feedback from end-users has been very good. For example, analysis of the Interim Satellite solution shows more than 80% are satisfied or very satisfied with the service. Additionally, as indicated by Mike Quigley at the 24 May Senate Estimates hearing, “overall, 38 per cent of active services on our fibre network have been on the fastest speed tier, which is 100 megabits per second down and 40 megabits per second up. Only 16 per cent of the active services on our fibre network are for the entry-level speed tier of 12 megabits down and 1 megabit up. In the data for April this trend is even stronger, with almost 50 per cent of new active services being on the highest speed tier of 100 megabits”. This trend largely reflects non-metropolitan communities as the majority of areas where services are available are in non-metropolitan Australia.



@11.07 am

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: 39

Hansard ref: In writing

Topic: Satellite Network

The Committee asked:

Can you provide an update of the progress of the Long Term Satellite Service including satellite launch arrangements, allocation of orbital slots and the development of ground stations?

Answer:

In the Hearing Mr Quigley said: “there is some data on one of the sheets handed to the committee which gives our long-term satellite capital costs. Just in passing, you can see from that that we are right where we expect to be. We have contracted for the spacecraft, the ground stations and 50 per cent of the VSATs, and we will, before the end of the year, contract for the launch. So our long-term satellite is coming in right where we hoped it would by the corporate plan.”

The International Telecommunications Union orbital slot coordination process for the Long Term Satellite Service is progressing as planned.

NBN Co has also made good progress in relation to the satellite ground stations. NBN Co has awarded two contracts worth a total of around \$180 million to Perkins (WA) Pty Ltd to build four satellite ground stations in Western Australia; and Cockram Corporation Pty Ltd for six ground stations in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. Construction of the ground stations will start early next year and be complete in 2014.

The locations of eight out of the ten ground stations already announced are:

- Moonyoonooka (near Geraldton), Brown Range (near Carnarvon), and Binduli (near Kalgoorlie) in Western Australia;
- Bourke, and Woolooma (near Merimbula);
- Geeveston in Tasmania;
- Ceduna in South Australia; and
- Roma in Queensland.

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: 46

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Fibre Network Extensions (NBN Co Corporate Plan page 32)

The Committee asked:

How many network extension applications have resulted in the extension of the fibre footprint?

Answer:

During the initial trial of the process, that helped inform the development of the policy, one offer to extend the fibre footprint was accepted and the footprint was amended to include one additional premise.

Since the launch of the Network Extension policy on 12 July 2012, 68 applications have been received to extend the footprint. Of these 68 applications:

- one quote to extend the fibre footprint has been issued, with seven under development
- 11 are being assessed
- 30 are in a future rollout areas, and therefore not requiring an extension
- eight were eligible for a fibre extension, but were outside of the program's timeframe policy (see website for details)
- nine were cases where extending to the applicant's premises is not possible; and
- two were withdrawn by the applicants.

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: 65

Hansard ref: In writing

Topic: Transition from Copper Services

The Committee asked:

If copper wiring needs to be removed from a home to facilitate the installation of a fibre connection, does the homeowner need to pay to have it removed?

Answer:

The copper will not be decommissioned at the time of fibre installation and therefore will not be removed during the installation.