

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
nbm

Question No: 107

nbm

Hansard Ref: Page 124-125, 9/02/2016

Topic: Trenching

Senator Ludlam, Scott asked:

Senator LUDLAM: All right. Step us through this. Is nbn co able to meet all the required standards and regs while using a directional horizontal boring machine or similar machine, however you are installing these things—I have not actually seen it done—to bore underground from the cabinet site to the mains connection point, or are you actually going to need to do a fair bit of trenching to get these nodes hooked up to the mains?

Mr Morrow: I would have to take that on notice. I assume it is a combination of both of those approaches to be able to run the power cable.

Answer:

The nbn is able to meet all required standards and regulations in regards to use of a directional horizontal boring machine. A combination of horizontal boring and trenching is likely to be required, dependent on the specific circumstances. In most instances, horizontal boring will be undertaken to avoid trenching through driveways. It is not intended to install mains power on private property, reducing any risk to privately owned and cared for driveways or gardens. In addition, the mains power distances are short, significantly reducing the distances for trenching and horizontal boring as compared to the fibre to the premise build.