

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 306

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 54, 24/03/2017

Topic: MBSP round 2 – Franklin and Bass Electorates eligibility

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: The principles of equal distribution set out in paragraph 9.5.4—and I am sure you know what these say—of the guidelines for round 2, state:

The department will ensure subject to receipt of a valid application for a proposed base station in the electorate that funding is recommended for at least one proposed base station in each eligible federal electorate.

Were the electorates of Franklin and Bass in Tasmania eligible, and how many mobile base stations were recommended for Franklin and Bass in round 2?

Mr Patterson: Unfortunately, I do not have this by electorate; I only have it by location. That means I would have to extract that data to tell you how many are within particular electorates. In answer to the first part of the question: if it is an electorate that comprises areas that are not a major urban centre of more than 100,000 they are definitely eligible. In regard to how many base stations are in round 2 by electorate, unfortunately, I only have it by location. I would have to go through and check it against—

Senator URQUHART: Can you provide that to us?

Mr Patterson: We can definitely provide it. Hopefully, my guys will work on it now. I cannot make any guarantees because we have taken a few on notice already, but we will see what we can do.

Answer:

The electorates of Bass and Franklin were both eligible for base station funding under rounds 1 and 2 of the Mobile Black Spot Program.

Under round 1 of the program, the electorate of Bass was awarded three base stations and the electorate of Franklin was awarded two base stations. Under round 2, no base stations were recommended for funding in the electorates of Bass and Franklin as the applicants did not propose any base stations for funding in those electorates.