

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Spill-over Hearing March 2017
Communications Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 349

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Written, 31/03/2017

Topic: Fixed Wireless tower Birregurra VIC

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. Can NBN Co confirm households within 6km of the NBN Fixed Wireless tower Birregurra Vic which have line of sight, are unable to receive a fixed wireless service?
2. What is the reason for this? Is this because NBN Co have used directional antenna that does not transmit a signal in the direction of the homes which have line of sight?
3. Is this outcome a planning error that was too costly to correct after tower construction? Or a deliberate design decision?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The design and planning process for locating fixed wireless towers is complex and needs to take into account local topography, maximising the number of premises with line of sight to the tower, ensuring microwave backhaul links can connect, and avoiding radio frequency interference with existing or planned infrastructure. The configuration of the antennas on the Birregurra tower is related to Radio Frequency interference risks that would compromise performance for premises in and around that region.
3. This was certainly not a planning error. See 2 above.