

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 257

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Page 107 (29/5/2014)

Topic: Fixed wireless and satellite

Senator Seselja asked:

So I will not do it, but I believe it is there and others can check the *Hansard*. Just before I move on from fixed wireless and satellite—because I know we have got a senator from Tasmania here—in Tasmania, when it comes to fixed wireless and satellite, what are some of the gaps? How are the people of Tasmania who rely on fixed wireless and satellite placed? How has it been for them? How much of a gap is there in terms of that service for people in Tasmania?

Mr Rousselot: From memory I think there are three beams that are covering Tasmania from the satellite perspective. There are also a number of fixed wireless towers that are expected to be built there. I do not have the number of towers that are planned specifically for Tasmania.

Senator SESELJA: So how many Tasmanians miss out before you make the remediation and spend the extra \$1.2 billion?

Mr Rousselot: For Tasmania specifically I do not have this answer. Sorry.

Senator SESELJA: Okay, perhaps you could take it—

Mr Rousselot: But I can take it on notice if you would like me to do so.

Answer:

By 2020 NBN Co expects coverage in Tasmania of 17,000 premises by satellite and 40,000 premises by fixed wireless. The Long Term Satellite Service is expected to be in commercial service by early 2016 or sooner if possible, with high rates of user activation planned for 2016 to 2018.

Over 50 per cent of planned fixed wireless coverage in Tasmania is already in place and has reached more than 22,000 premises. Coverage is planned to reach 27,000 by July 2015, with 30,000 by July 2016, and full coverage achieved by July 2017. In total 170 fixed wireless towers are planned for Tasmania and 85 of these are in service today.