

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 572

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Mobile Black Spot Programme

Senator Urquhart asked:

The Secretary undertook to take on notice the question of whether the database of mobile black spots could be made public. Could the Secretary also include in the dataset the evaluation of each location against the coverage maps of Telstra, Optus and Vodafone?

Answer:

The database reflects a broad range of consumer mobile coverage experiences, ranging from areas completely without mobile coverage through to concerns about individual carriers. This database will be provided to potential applicants, including Telstra, Optus and Vodafone Hutchison Australia, to assist them in preparing their funding bids for the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

In their applications for funding, applicants will be required to provide data on the level of coverage that each proposed base station will achieve, for example the size of the coverage footprint and the length of additional major transport routes covered. Expert engineers will be utilised to test the coverage claims made by applicants.