

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 100

Program No. nbn

Hansard Ref: Page 56, 28/5/2015

Topic: Fixed Wireless

Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:

Mr Adcock: The boxes had the capacity to run those speeds, yes, and we just enabled that to happen.

Senator CONROY: Are these the 12/1 boxes? Have you finished switching out the 12/1 boxes? Because we started deploying 12/1 boxes and we ended up with 25/5 boxes. Is it both sets of boxes or you have now switched out all of the 12/1 boxes?

Mr Adcock: As I understand it, the capacity out there in the network today took no box swaps. It was just a firmware-type issue, but I can come back with that.

Senator CONROY: I will not torture you on how, because I know you are not actually an engineer. I would be interested in a short paper just on how it has been configured to achieve that.

Mr Adcock: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

There was only 100 first release version Wireless Network Termination Devices (WNTDs) deployed that could support only 12 Megabits per second downlink and 1 Megabits per second uplink.

All subsequent release version WNTDs were introduced with an improved antenna and chipset that can support at least 25 Megabits per second downlink and 5 Megabits per second uplink with services capped at 12 Megabits per second downlink and 1 Megabits per second uplink. There have been 87 users who had the first release version WNTD installed, but requested the higher throughput service. They have had their WNTD replaced with a 25 Megabits per second downlink and 5 Megabits per second uplink capable version.