

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 109

Program No. nbn

Hansard Ref: Page 92-93, 28/5/2015

Topic: Telstra FTTN footprint

Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:

The logical thing to do. I think you pointed out previously that you expect to serve about 200 premises with each node. Is that still the case?

Mr Adcock: That is not the case at the moment with our planning assumptions. Part of the construction trials that we are currently planning it is a bit less than 200.

Senator CONROY: A bit less, so 180? That was my original recollection.

Mr Adcock: I think at the moment it is about 173 or 175. That is our current modelling.

Mr Morrow: On average.

Mr Adcock: On average.

Senator CONROY: I thought the number was around 180. That was my understanding. We will call it a 175 average. Now, what distribution cable are you laying in the Telstra FTTN footprint? How many fibres—the big fat one?

Mr Adcock: I believe, again, it goes on when the designers look at the node and look at the capacity required so can I—

Senator CONROY: Given they are all roughly 175, it would be the same size?

Mr Adcock: But that is an average. I will come back to you with that. There are contextual rules around that.

Mr Morrow: Are you asking how many fibres go to the fibre to the node?

Senator CONROY: Yes, into the back.

Mr Morrow: We will come back to you and give you that answer.

Senator CONROY: If it is possible, this afternoon or this evening. How many nodes is the distribution cable serving?

Mr Adcock: I am sorry?

Senator CONROY: Is the distribution cable just one node?

Mr Adcock: No. That is what I am saying. It depends on the area and the density. There is a whole series of network planning rules around that. That is why I was a bit thrown by your question.

Senator CONROY: I am interested in what size. I would be surprised if they are different sized cables because there is not that much difference between them. It depends on whether they are branching off.

Mr Adcock: There are towns where you have a handful of nodes versus Williamstown where you have a lot more dense population.

Answer:

The distribution fibre cable size is designed on a Service Area Module basis taking into account the volume of nodes, pillar locations and the existing pit and pipe routes. The cable sizes designed for the first 84 Distribution Fibre Network routes as part of the construction trial are split as follows:

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

- 72 Fibre – 3%
- 144 Fibre – 19%
- 288 Fibre - 43%
- 432 Fibre - 31%
- 576 Fibre - 3%

These percentages will vary over time.