

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015**

**Communications Portfolio**

**nbn**

**Question No: 124**

**Program No. nbn**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 3/6/2015**

**Topic: Distribution Area**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

The response to Question on Notice No. 56 from the Additional Estimates Hearings states that an “Access Distribution Area (ADA)” will definitively determine the technology used in the MTM rollout. However, in its response to Question on Notice No. 55 from the Additional Estimates Hearings, NBN Co’s answer to part (c) says that a “Distribution Area (or Fibre Distribution Area)” will not be able to determine the technology.

- a. What is the difference, if any, between a Distribution Area, Fibre Distribution Area and Access Distribution Area?
- b. Why does an Access Distribution Area definitively determine an access technology, but not a Distribution Area or a Fibre Distribution Area?

**Answer:**

- a. A Distribution Area (DA) is a Telstra definition and is normally the area served by a single copper pillar. Fibre Distribution Area (FDA) is an **nbn** definition and is the area served by a single Fibre Distribution Hub (FDH). Prior to the Multi-Technology Mix (MTM), the Fixed Line Footprint was comprised entirely of FDAs. The use of the term FDA will be phased out in favour of the more-general term Access Distribution Area (ADA). An ADA is an **nbn** definition and is the area served by a single Node where a Node may be a Fibre Distribution Hub, an HFC Optical Node or a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM). Under MTM, the Fixed Line Footprint will be comprised entirely of ADAs.
- b. An ADA determines the single access technology for that access distribution area. The DA may be subdivided into two or more ADAs where **nbn** determines that a single access technology is inappropriate. An FDA definitively defines the access technology as Fibre to the Premise (FTTP).