

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 13

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 29/5/2015

Topic: NBN roll-out information

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Detailed rollout information provided on the Member for Corangamite's website includes more detailed suburb information than contained in the publicly released NBN Multitechnology Mix Rollout Plan and approximate build dates:

<http://sarahhenderson.com.au/2014/12/02/nbn-planning-in-corangamite/>

Minister Fifield confirmed in Estimates that this level of detail, while not publicly released, is able to be obtained by any Member or Senator through a briefing with the Minister.

Is this additional information confidential?

In obtaining this information through a briefing, is a Member or Senator free to make the information public as Ms Henderson did on her website?

If so, why doesn't NBN or the Department of Communications release this information publicly?

Answer:

The Government has implemented a range of further measures to improve the transparency of NBN Co, on top of the normal public reporting that Government Business Enterprises undertake. For example, NBN Co is now publishing weekly rollout data, it is providing a monthly report on rollout and end user take-up, and is reporting quarterly on its financial performance, including conducting quarterly industry presentations.

NBN Co has also started to provide additional information to the public as part of its quarterly updates on the rollout plan, including:

- Instead of providing just the service area, providing information on towns or suburbs that are all or partially covered
- Providing more detail regarding when construction is scheduled to commence in a particular area.