

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015**

**Communications Portfolio**

**nbn**

**Question No: 132**

**Program No. nbn**

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

**Topic: Technology Choice Policy Frequently Asked Question**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

NBN Co's Technology Choice Policy Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document states in the response to Question 4: "Ideally an Area Switch application should be made before the rollout of the network..."

- a. Given the 18 Month Rollout Plan released by NBN Co only indicates whether or not a mix of technologies (Multi Technology Mix) will be used in a suburb (and not which technologies will be used in which area), how does NBN Co envisage that communities will know what technology is originally planned for an area so that they can then decide to apply?
- b. Given the 18 month Rollout Plan released by NBN Co does not inform Australians about when construction will start in an area, how does NBN Co consider that applicants will know when to submit an application?

**Answer:**

- a. **nbn's** Technology choice program has two options available – Individual Premises Switch and Area Switch. Individual Premises Switch from Fibre to the Node /Basement (FTTN/B) to Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) is available only after an area has been rolled out. In the case of an Area Switch, where the application would be a State or Local Authority, Community Organisation or Body Corporate, once the relevant area becomes part of the announced nbn rollout area, there is an opportunity for the interested party to engage with nbn to obtain further details of the rollout before deciding whether it is appropriate to proceed with an application for an Area Switch. Information on this process, nbn contact details and application forms are available on the **nbn** website.
- b. The 18-month rollout plan is updated quarterly with additional three-months of planned construction activity added to the latter part of the rollout. Eligible parties who are potentially interested in an Area Switch are encouraged to register that interest when the area first appears in the announced rollout plan.