

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Spill-over June 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 289

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 14, 15/06/2017

Topic: Mobile Black Spot Program Round 2 – Consistency across carriers

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Are the three types of minimum specifications consistent for all three carriers?

Mr Drew: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think so; I think they are slightly different. As I said, each carrier builds a different style of tower.

Senator URQUHART: Could you take that on notice and maybe give us a little more detail around the differential, if there is any.

Mr Drew: Sure.

Answer:

Under round two of the Mobile Black Spot Program, a Mobile Network Operator (MNO) was able to receive points for a mobile base station in the funding application assessment process if they committed to providing co-location on that base station if requested to do so by another MNO.

Two of the MNO's received points for making such a commitment. The funding deeds for these two MNO's specify minimum technical specifications which they would provide at incremental cost for other MNO's who wished to co-locate. These technical specifications included three different types of configurations for key equipment such as panel antennas, remote radio units (RRUs), amplifiers, transmission dishes and associated cabling.

The different technical specifications reflect the requirements of each MNO. Technical requirements beyond the technical specifications in the funding deeds can still be negotiated between MNOs.