

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 184**

**Program No. NBN Co**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: FTTN trials**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

- 1 On what date did NBN Co decide to proceed with the 1,000 node trial?
- 2 Did NBN Co purchase any FTTN cabinet equipment for use in the 1,000 node trial prior to May? If so, what equipment?
- 3 Has NBN Co obtained access to Telstra's internal cabling and maintenance database?
- 4 Has NBN Co attempted to verify the accuracy of the database on items such as cable length, cable labelling or maintenance documentation? If not, why not?
- 5 How is NBN Co verifying the number of premises used to justify FTTN costs, given NBN Co overestimates premises when compared to [myBroadband.communications.gov.au](http://myBroadband.communications.gov.au) and State cadastral data? Has NBN Co verified that they are counting "premises" rather than "properties"?
- 6 In Umina (WOYY:68), a pillar has been replaced (see photo at attachment a), and in Belmont (BELT:33) the pillar has been replaced and relocated (see second photo at attachment b).
  - (a) Does NBN Co do this work, or Telstra?
  - (b) Is NBN Co liable for these costs? If so, what are NBN Co's costs to date for remediating, relocating and replacing pillars?
  - (c) How much does it cost to:
    - (i) Remediate pillars;
    - (ii) Replace pillars; and
    - (iii) Relocate pillars?
- 7 What action is NBN Co undertaking to ensure optimized deployment of nodes to minimize cost, such as the sharing of nodes between DAs?
- 8 Does NBN Co have a plan for the trial locations if NBN Co fails to reach an agreement with Telstra by June 2015? If so, what is it? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

- 1 A letter of intent to enter into the 1,000 node trial contract, subject to terms and conditions, was signed on 21 March 2014.
- 2 Yes – Fibre to the Node (FTTN) cabinets - 192 port.
- 3 No.
- 4 No. Refer to answer no. (3)
- 5 'Premises' are the unit of measure being used for FTTN. As part of the network design process, field inspections which include the validation of the premises count takes place.
- 6 As per below:
  - (a) Mirait Technologies does the trial construction works for Umina and Telstra does the works for Belmont, in both cases as contractors to NBN Co.

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- (b) NBN Co is responsible for the costs of those pillar works where required for the 1,000 node trial. Given that the construction trial is still at an early stage, limited cost information is available and cost impact is still to be assessed.
- (c) Current assessment based on limited available information:
  - i. Approximately \$5,500.
  - ii. Approximately \$3,500.
  - iii. This varies significantly depending on the scope of the relocation.
- 7 NBN Co.'s Design rules allow multiple distribution areas to connect into the one node. Current estimates are forecasting a reduction of 5 per cent of cabinet volume due to design optimisation.
- 8 The new Definitive Agreements between NBN Co and Telstra were executed in December 2014.