

**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: 194**

**Program No. NBN Co**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: SSCNBN QoN 23 – July 2014**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

In its answer to Question on Notice No. 23 from the 11 July hearing of the Senate Select Committee, NBN Co states “The batteries located in the FTTN cabinets have a manufacturer’s design life of fifteen years.”

- (a) For how many hours will the FTTN batteries power the nodes in the event of a mains power outage?
- (b) What assumptions has NBN Co made in the Strategic Review about the quantity and duration of power outages affecting the nodes?
- (c) On the basis of these assumptions, for what time period does NBN Co assume the batteries will last in each node before they will need replacing?
- (d) Are these assumptions unchanged in NBN Co’s 2014-17 Corporate Plan?

**Answer:**

- a) The backup time will vary depending on port occupancy. Our current standards aim to provide four hours of battery backup.
- b) No explicit assumptions were made.
- c) As part of its technical specification process NBN Co is currently working with the manufacturers on optimal maintenance strategies.
- d) While the 2014-17 Corporate Plan did not explicitly cover FTTN battery backup, NBN Co has made proactive maintenance financial assumptions which it believes to be conservative.