

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 1

Program 1.1

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Topic: Electorate Briefs

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: What information is contained in these briefs? Do they cover the planned roll-out for fibre to the node, HFC, fixed wireless and satellite until late 2018? Is that correct?

Ms O'Loughlin: They do not cover the satellite roll-out. It is not possible for nbn to map the satellite roll-out at this stage. Satellite services will be coming online mid-2016. The roll-out plan does not include the satellite but it does include the multi-technology mix. It is a mixture of different technologies in different areas. They are identified in the roll-out plan. For the first time also the roll-out plan includes HFC, which has not been seen before. So it really is a very comprehensive roll-out plan, identifying both where things will be going, the date they going and also what technology people will be receiving.

Senator URQUHART: So they do contain the HFC, as you have said, fibre to the node and fixed wireless?

Ms O'Loughlin: That is correct.

Senator URQUHART: That is the gamut, and satellite will be mid-2016?

Ms O'Loughlin: They will be able to give a bit more shape to the satellite roll out once the satellites are actually up and running. It just isn't possible at this stage for them to map that roll-out. But that will be coming.

Senator URQUHART: Do you know when that is possible?

Mr Robinson: Can I just mention, I understand that the roll-out plan does not include fixed wireless or satellite. Just to clarify that. It is all the fixed line network.

Senator URQUHART: What is the timeframe, then? The information that is contained in the briefs is fibre to the node and HFC but not fixed wireless or satellite. So what is the timeframe for the release of the information?

Mr Robinson: That is probably a question best directed to nbn co. But I think the satellite roll out information will essentially be as services are taken up. Services will commence in the first part of next year. The first satellite, of course, has just been launched. Similarly, I think they will report on fixed wireless as it is rolled out. I might say, currently as areas are available for fixed wireless they are mapped and made available on the website.

Answer:

Commercial satellite services are expected to be available on the long term satellite service in the first half of 2016. Initial testing of the satellite and customer trials of the service will occur prior to the service being made commercially available. NBN Co will release further information on satellite serving areas after the trials have concluded.