

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 106

nbn

Hansard Ref: Written, 22/10/2015

Topic: Copper Remediation

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

At the Senate Select Committee on the NBN public hearing on 14 September 2015, Mr Adcock indicated (transcript, page 52) in the context of copper remediation, that “there is then a remediation tree that we go through.”

- (a) Please provide this “remediation tree.”
- (b) Is this “remediation tree” a tool that provides guidance on NBN Co’s preferred method of remediation in the circumstances?
- (c) Please set out the options available to NBN Co for remediation.
- (d) Please set out the number of times, to date, NBN Co has used each of these options.
- (e) Is one of these options “retrofitting” copper? If so, in what circumstances will this be the preferred remediation option?
- (f) For how many lines have copper lengths been retrofitted, to date?

Answer:

- (a) Please see QoN Answer No.79
- (b) Yes
- (c) Prior to commissioning a node the prime copper remediation option is the removal of all pair gain systems. Pair gain systems cannot carry VDSL broadband. All Pair Gain Systems within the Fibre to the Node (FTTN) footprint are removed prior to commissioning the Nodes and taking asset ownership of the copper network. Following the commissioning of a node and Retail Service Providers taking up **nbn** broadband services further remediation is determined as required on an individual service basis.
- (d) Small Pair Gain Systems Removal – 171 Small Pair Gain Systems identified, 160 removed, 11 to remain as they are not impacting **nbn** services. Interfering Special Services – 12 services identified, 10 of 12 successfully migrated, 1 pending and 1 irresolvable
- (e) Yes, one of the options is retrofitting copper. When pair gain systems are replaced, services are usually transferred to circuits in the copper cables. This at times means installing lengths of copper cable.
- (f) To date, nbn has retrofitted cable for one Interfering Special Services line.