

**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: 118**

**nbn**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 26/10/2015**

**Topic: Commercial and Operational constraints - Howden**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

The Government's Statement of Expectations states that 'NBN Co will prioritise areas identified as poorly served by the 'Broadband Availability and Quality Report' published by the Department of Communications in February 2014 (including any subsequent refinements from additional data) to the extent commercially and operationally feasible.' What commercial and operational considerations would constrain NBN from constructing the network in Howden sooner than scheduled?

**Answer:**

The most cost effective solution for Howden is Fixed Wireless, requiring two towers. One tower is currently in service but requires additional capacity. The second is currently in design phase.