

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: 126

nbn

Hansard Ref: Written, 03/11/2015

Topic: NBN rollout schedule – West Coast

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

I refer to the NBN rollout schedule from December 2014, which lists key West Coast towns as getting fixed line NBN, with construction due to start before June 2016.

- (a) Was this plan budgeted when you published the 2014 rollout schedule?
- (b) When did the plan change to connect the West Coast towns of Queenstown, Rosebery and Zeehan to a satellite connection?
- (c) You mentioned in the most recent hearing that the reason for the West Coast satellite connection was the cost of a fibre link. Was NBN aware of this cost when the December 2014 rollout plan was devised?
- (d) Where have the funds dedicated to the West Coast rollout been reallocated since the decision to use satellite connections?
- (e) I have been advised that some infrastructure upgrades were made to West Coast exchanges in anticipation of the fixed line rollouts. Is this accurate? If so, what was the cost of these upgrades?

Answer:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Between the 18-month plan released in early April 2015 and the 18-month plan released in early July 2015.
- (c) No.
- (d) Funds are not allocated to a specific region.
- (e) Preparatory exchange works were undertaken by Telstra in anticipation of the fixed-line rollout for Queenstown, Rosebery and Zeehan. The costs for these works are commercial in confidence between **nbn** and Telstra.