

**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: 127**

**nbn**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 03/11/2015**

**Topic: NBN multi-technology deployment – Principles Document**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

1. I refer to the NBN multi-technology deployment principles document from 13 November 2014, which states that underserved areas will be prioritised.
  - (a) Does the West Coast qualify as being underserved? On what basis is this decision made?
  - (b) Does the decision to categorise areas as ‘underserved’ take into account the availability of ports at exchanges?
  - (c) If not, why not?
  - (d) If so, could you provide the most recent data on port availability in Queenstown, Rosebery and Zeehan? I have had significant correspondence from West Coast constituents saying that they are unable to secure access because all ports are full.
2. What is the population of the largest town scheduled to be connected to satellite NBN nationally?
3. You also mentioned in the recent hearing that NBN would meet with West Coast stakeholders within 4 weeks of the October hearing. Could you please advise on the status/ progress toward this meeting?
4. In the 28 May estimates hearing, you advised that construction in Devonport would begin within 5 months of designs being issued (page 104 Hansard). You then advised on QoN response 106 that the designs were issued on 10 April 2015.
  - (a) Did construction start in September as per the advised timeframe?
  - (b) If not, what was the cause of the delay?
  - (c) Could you please advise what stage the build is at?
  - (d) How long is the build expected to take?
  - (e) When will residents of Devonport be able to access the NBN?
  - (f) In the recent estimates hearing, you revealed the NBN has purchased 1800 km of copper. How many kilometres of this copper has been budgeted for the Devonport rollout?
  - (g) How much extra would it cost to deliver the full-fibre NBN that was originally planned?

**Answer:**

1.
  - a) Underserved Areas are Distribution Area(s) DAs with less than 90% broadband availability and/or DAs with less than 4.8Mbps peak median speed. Queenstown is categorised as Underserved. Rosebery and Zeehan are not categorised as Underserved.
  - b) No
  - c) The definition of Underserved Areas is set by the Department of Communications.
  - d) **nbn** does not receive port availability data from the Department of Communications.

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2. This information is not known at this stage. Areas in the non-fixed line footprint may be covered by Fixed Wireless and/or Satellite. The access technology for specific towns will be included in future releases of the three year construction plan
3. Discussions between the West Coast Council and **nbn** to find a mutually convenient date are currently underway
4.
  - a) For Devonport Fibre Serving Area (FSA) Build Preparation was completed by September 2015, with the first Service Area Module (SAM) entering the Build Commence phase in November 2015.
  - b) The estimated time to construction was based on a modelled estimate. The forecast is updated as more detailed information comes to hand.
  - c) As at 12 November 2015, one SAM in Devonport is in the Build Commence phase, with three remaining SAMs yet to enter the Build Commence phase.
  - d) SAMs in Devonport are forecast to achieve Practical Completion from March 2016. The forecast is subject to change as updated information comes to hand.
  - e) SAMs in Devonport are modelled to achieve Ready for Service (RFS) approximately 4 months after Practical Completion.
  - f) The budget for copper work is prepared on an average basis per SAM across the deployment plan, not specific to a location. All copper cable is ordered into inventory on the basis of the calculated demand using the average SAM volume plus safety stock.
  - g) The additional cost to deliver Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) to Devonport is not readily available, as it would require a detailed design and review of requirements for provisions for rock, asbestos etc. Utilising the Corporate Plan cost per premise rates for FTTP (\$4,400) and Fibre to the Node (FTTN) (\$2,300) would suggest that FTTP would cost ~\$23 million, although Devonport is likely to be more expensive than the national average.