

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: 75

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Topic: Adequate Copper Supplies

Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:

Senator CONROY: Either there is a shortage at the moment or there is not. I accept the point you are making that they are scaling up to meet your future demand but I am not asking you about the future—I am asking you about today. I think you both acknowledge—though you are doing your best to disguise it—that there is not sufficient copper at the moment to serve your needs. You are saying it has not impacted the rollout; I accept what you are saying. But whether or not there is sufficient copper is a fact. It is not a debating point. Either they can supply you what you need at the moment or they cannot. They are your sole supplier.

Mr Morrow: That is my understanding. Again, it is a bit of a vague recollection of a meeting that we have had in the past where there was work being done with Prysmian and others to ensure that we have an adequate amount of copper in the right locations to deal with those few applications—

Senator CONROY: It does not shock me, because people have stopped producing copper to the quantities that you are going to need. It does not shock me that is the case. Prysmian are a good company; I am sure they will build up to meet your needs. But today, right now, my understanding is that they are not able to supply you—

Mr Morrow: I will confirm shortly exactly what the situation is so that you have the answer to your question.

Answer:

The volume of supply of copper cable is currently adequate for network rollout needs.