

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: 79

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Hansard Ref: Page 83, 20/10/15

Topic: Remediation Tree

Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:

Senator CONROY: I assume this remediation tree is contained in a field guide of some kind so that the contractors know what to do?

Mr Morrow: I do not know whether it is in a field guide. I am certain it is something that the engineers look at when they do the high-level designs.

Senator CONROY: But on the ground, they have to know how to treat it—open the pit, there is a bit of copper, look at it. They have to know—

Mr Morrow: There might be some provisions in there. Again, if, for example, the trouble rate for this particular neighbourhood is above this per cent then we know that we need to do probably some joint replacements or some repair and remediation work in that area; hence the reason why it has some special application.

Senator CONROY: Could you talk us through the remediation tree?

Mr Morrow: Again, if you look at it in the sense of how many copper pairs are available to offer the service, that could drive some remediation work—how many pair gain systems, or if there are pair gain systems on there, that would necessitate remediation work. If you want to look at whether or not the line conditioning is going to be affected by bridge taps and coils that may need to be removed, that could be remediation. With the trouble rate component of this, if it is above a certain percentage then there will have to be remediation work to go out and replace the joints. If the trouble rate is beyond a threshold—it may be a minimum to change the joint—if it is above another level, it is a matter of wiping the whole program and looking for an alternative technology.

Senator CONROY: Is there a schematic that we can get a copy of? The Hansard cannot pick up your hands as they were moving around to describe it. I am hoping there is a schematic that is reasonably easily available to us.

Mr Morrow: I do not know of a schematic. I am just going by the discussions I have had with the engineers about what we look at. But I will certainly look to see if there is something available.

Answer:

Copper Customer Access Network: information below.

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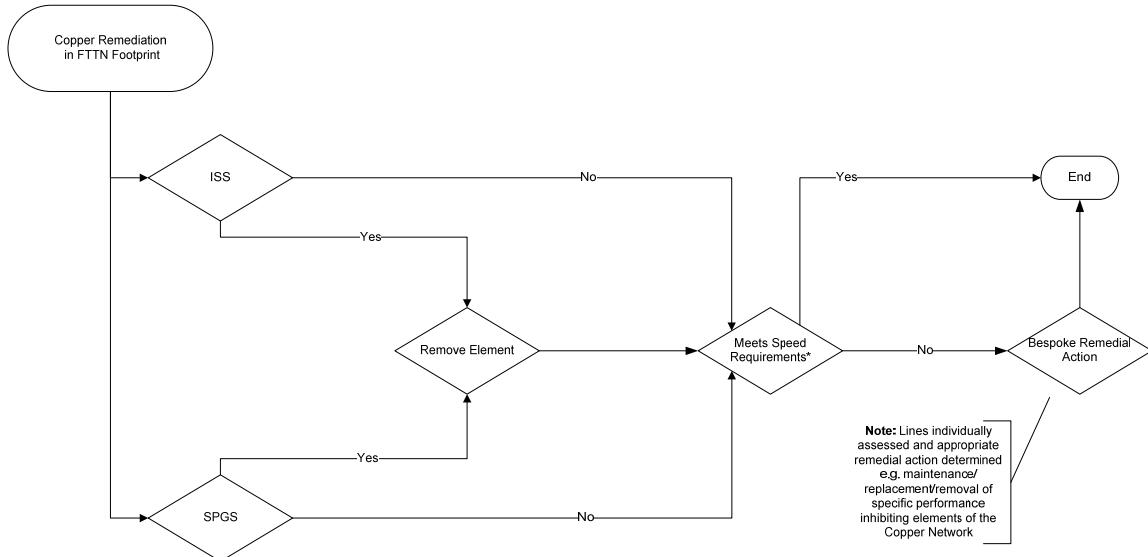
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Copper Customer Access Network (CAN) Remediation Decision Tree



Glossary

ISS – Incompatible Special Services are existing Telstra Services. Certain types block nbn VDSL services and thus require removal.

SPGS – Small Pair Gain Systems cannot carry VDSL broadband. They were used to economically overcome copper shortfalls by combining several telephone services over a single copper pair. These must be designed out and the devices removed from the circuit.

*After Commissioning