

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 152**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 31/10/2016**

**Topic: NBN network to Howden**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

In November last year, nbn advised that they had reviewed the technology used to deliver the nbn network to Howden. The fixed wireless solution involved a new fixed wireless tower at Tinderbox and using some spare capacity from an existing tower at Snug. Work on both towers was to commence in the third quarter of this year.

I have recently been advised that a wedge-tailed eagle's nest has been discovered 60 metres from the site of the proposed Tinderbox tower. The Kingborough Council's planning permit does not allow any construction between November 2016 and February 2017.

The ready for service date for Howden has now been revised to March 2017.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why has construction of the Tinderbox fixed wireless tower not been able to be commenced and completed before November 2016?
2. At what stage of planning / construction is the Snug fixed wireless tower?
3. When is the Snug tower expected to be operational?
4. Given spare capacity from the Snug tower was proposed as part of the solution for Howden, will the Snug tower serve some premises in Howden before the Tinderbox tower is operational?
5. How many premises in Howden will be served by the Snug tower?

**Answer:**

1. The design and acquisition of the Tinderbox fixed wireless tower was completed on 31 August 2016. The conditions in the Development Application specify that between early July and late January, transport construction activities can only be undertaken after dusk and before 9pm. This condition inhibits the delivery of concrete to the site to enable build.
2. The Snug tower was operational and Ready For Service on 28 June 2013.
3. As above.
4. Yes.
5. The Snug tower is predicted to serve approximately 50 premises in Howden, with the Tinderbox site serving approximately 250 premises.