

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 16

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 115, 18/10/2016

Topic: MBSP – Federal seat of McEwen

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:

Senator DASTYARI: Minister, how many black spot programs did the federal seat of McEwen get? Are you aware of that? As you know, that is the location of Black Friday.

Senator Fifield: There have been recent fires in a number of places in Australia but, obviously, that area was heavily impacted.

Senator DASTYARI: You don't know the answer, do you?

Senator Fifield: I cannot go through each electorate off the top of my head.

Senator DASTYARI: Sure. Maybe the department could answer?

Senator DUNIAM: It is a Labor electorate.

Mr Paterson: There were two base stations under round 1 funded in the McEwen electorate.

Senator DASTYARI: To what value?

Mr Paterson: I would have to take that one on notice.

Senator Fifield: But, that is an important point, because the Victorian state Labor government had a very major say as to which mobile black spots in that state were funded. That is correct, isn't it?

Mr Paterson: That is correct.

Senator Fifield: There was very close cooperation with the state Labor government.

Senator DASTYARI: You might want to take this on notice, if you do not have the information: how many were requested in that electorate?

Mr Paterson: I can take that on notice.

Senator DASTYARI: Do you have that information with you? Is that on the table?

Mr Paterson: No, I do not have the carriers' applications.

Senator DASTYARI: Fair enough.

Answer:

Two mobile base stations are being deployed (by Telstra) in the electorate of McEwen in Victoria under round 1 of the Mobile Black Spot Program.

The total cost of the two mobile base stations in the electorate of McEwen is \$1.21 million, including funding from the Australian Government, the Victorian Government and Telstra.

There were no other base stations applied for by funding applicants in the McEwen electorate in round 1.