

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0133\_14

**Senator McKenzie asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 39**

**Question**

**Loddon-Mallee RESJ**

Senator McKENZIE: Tertiary education training all, and for Loddon-Mallee issue 10.  
Ms Cornish: We do have a bit of information about the food and beverages skills passport that the coordinator put in place. As of January 2013, 72 participants had undertaken the training, and we understand that around 55 of those have either found jobs in the industry or retained employment in positions that required upgraded skills. The RESJ coordinator in Loddon-Mallee has also developed a horticulture-with-a-difference pilot program, which has resulted in employment outcomes for five of the 14 disadvantaged job seekers that were engaged. Senator McKENZIE: Thank you. Ms Cornish: That was run between mid-August to early November 2012.  
Senator McKENZIE: Within the Loddon-Mallee plan and the NBN rollout to commence within three years in the immediate Bendigo area, given that it is one of the priorities identified in the plan, I would like some more detail on NBN's plans for the Loddon-Mallee. Ms Cornish: Okay, we can take that on notice.

**Answer**

For an update on Issue 10 in the Loddon Mallee plan refer to DEEWR Question on Notice EW0134\_14.

As of 21 October 2013, NBN services were being offered in the Loddon Mallee region over the fixed wireless network in the less densely populated areas surrounding Ballarat, Bendigo, Broadford, Castlemaine, Nagambie and Sale. There are also fibre services available in several new developments in the City of Greater Bendigo.

With regard to future NBN rollout activity in Loddon-Mallee, the NBN Co Board is currently undertaking a Strategic Review of the NBN, conducting a rapid and rigorous business review of NBN Co's rollout progress and costs, its structure, its internal capabilities, and its commercial prospects and strategic options.

In the interim, NBN Co has been directed to continue:

- deploying the fixed wireless network, but in doing so take into account the very likely availability of fixed line broadband technology via VDSL in smaller communities not currently in the fibre fixed line footprint;
- to offer services over the interim satellite service;
- work associated with the build and launch of the long term satellites;
- construction of the transit network and points of interconnect;

- the development of special services, enterprise services etc.; and
- to deploy fibre to new development areas.

In regard to the rollout in established areas, NBN Co has been directed to continue existing construction where build instructions have been issued to delivery partners.

The outcomes of the Strategic Review will allow the Government to make decisions regarding the optimum mix of technologies to deliver high speed broadband.