

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

Questions on Notice

Further hearings into the National Broadband Network

Melbourne, 14 April 2010

Armidale Dumaresq Council (NSW)

Mr Stephen Gow, Director Planning and Environment Services (Teleconference))

Mr David Steller, Director, Engineering and Works (Teleconference)

Municipality of Kiama (NSW)

Mr Bryan Whittaker, Engineering Director (Teleconference)

Townsville Council (QLD)

*Mr David Lynch, Executive Manager, Economic Development and Strategic Projects
(Teleconference)*

City of Onkaparinga (SA)

Mr Brian Hales, Group Manager Economic Development (Teleconference)

QoN No.	Hansard Page Reference	Senator	Question	Status
1	NBN 12	Fisher	Senator FISHER—I will ask my questions of Mr Hales, who no doubt will be ecstatic about that, but could the rest of you also take it as if the questions were to you and provide the committee with answers to those questions on notice? As part of the rollout, has the City of Onkaparinga been required to sign any sort of confidentiality agreements with anybody—for example, with NBN Co. or any government departments? RESPONSE: No	

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2	NBN 12	Fisher	Senator FISHER—Thank you. That is my first question for the rest of you very good gentlemen. You will all have local planning laws and requirements. Mr Hales, at this stage has there been any discussion about or do you have any expectations that there might need to be some changes to or circumvention of what would normally be local planning rules to facilitate the rollout? If so, on what basis? RESPONSE: There has been no discussion and it is too early to determine whether any changes will be required.	
3	NBN 14	Fisher	Senator FISHER—My question is about timing. This is my third question that I would like everybody to answer on notice—but, Mr Hales, if you could answer today. When are you expecting the trial rollout to be operational for Willunga? And on what do you base that expectation? RESPONSE: The last advice provided by NBNCo on 10 March 2010 was that the rollout would be operational by late January/early February 2011.	
4	NBN 14	Fisher	Senator FISHER—My supplementary question is: given the imminence of the rollout—August, the eighth month of this year—have you agreed a timeline to get to that implementation? Mr Hales—No, we have not. Senator FISHER—I ask the same question of everybody else, if you would not mind answering that on notice. Thank you. RESPONSE: As above	

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5	NBN 14	Chair	CHAIR—Gentlemen, thank you very much for your attendance. We were overly ambitious in thinking we could have a complete discussion on this. There will be quite a number of questions on notice, which we will try and make simple and do not expect long answers to. The committee secretariat will send you some of the questions that have been flagged, and some others, if you could oblige us with answers. I know you are all particularly busy at this time of year, but thank you very much for your attendance and for your participation. To the extent you did not cover this in your oral evidence: a. How did your Council first hear it had been selected as a mainland trial site? RESPONSE: Through the media on 2 March 2010 b. Is new fibre being installed or is existing infrastructure being used? Was there existing infrastructure available? Is the roll-out via aerial or underground cabling? RESPONSE: New fibre is being installed but I don't know about existing infrastructure c. Is current regional backhaul sufficient to meet the network's needs? RESPONSE: I don't believe so. d. To what extent is information about the NBN being communicated to residents / local businesses? RESPONSE: NBNCo is preparing a community consultation program which I believe will commence mid May 2010 e. What do you see as the benefit of the network to your local government area and its residents? What additional services / opportunities do you hope the NBN will deliver in your area? What additional support do you require to realise those plans? RESPONSE: The City of Onkaparinga is undergoing significant change with relatively high projected population growth and the transition of our business base from automotive manufacturing to a higher value add service based economy. We do not possess the transport infrastructure to support an economy based on the movement of goods. We see our competitiveness being built on the movement of knowledge and ideas – hence high capacity broadband is an essential piece of infrastructure. f. Is there demand in your area among constituents for the NBN services? If so, for what services?	

