

Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
Answers to Questions on Notice
Public Hearing 16 May 2011
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio
NBN Co Limited

Question No: 1

Hansard Ref: JC12

Topic: Construction tender

Senator Macdonald asked:

Can you give us the range of difference in the tendering that came in and perhaps one or two other tenders that you say there is a wide range in.

Answer:

As previously indicated, the construction tender was a commercial procurement process that was confidential under its terms. It needs to remain so in order for NBN Co to deliver an outcome which ensures taxpayers' receive the best value for their contribution.

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Question No: 2

Hansard Ref: JC13

Topic: Complaints in Townsville rollout

Senator Macdonald asked:

What was the level of complaints from residents about the rollout in Townsville?

Answer:

Of the 133 construction complaints received in the five mainland first release sites, Townsville accounted for only 20.

Context

Mr Quigley

...We also have work going on, as you know, in five mainland sites around Australia. They are in Armidale, Willunga, Brunswick, Townsville and Kiama. I will not go through all of the statistics on that, other than to say I think you did ask about complaints in any of those areas. We did in fact obviously have some complaints as we were doing the rollout in those places, mostly related to the physical aspects of the build. The total number of construction complaints we had was 133, which represents a complaint level of one per cent of the premises covered in those first release sites. In each of those complaints, we address them and we make sure they are resolved to the satisfaction of the complainants; we have a process in place to try to do that to the best of our ability.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: I am sure Telecom or the Postmaster-General had the same thing, but without competition they did not put it into effect. Anyhow, that is a comment. Were the complaints of one per cent even across Australia or were there more in one particular area?

Mr Quigley: No, if I look at the numbers, my recollection is that there were more in Kiama than in other places.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Being parochial, can I ask you on notice what the Townsville situation was.

Mr Quigley: Yes.

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Question No: 3

Hansard Ref: JC15

Topic: Incremental cost of extending fibre to Julia Creek

Senator Macdonald asked:

Can you give me some indication of the incremental cost of providing fibre to Julia Creek?

Answer:

NBN Co Network Planning & Design are undertaking a study of Julia Creek to identify the incremental cost per premises to provide fibre to the town compared to what it would have cost if the town was covered by the planning rule of 500+ premises on an existing transmission route.

In order to complete the study data on the existing infrastructure (for example the Telstra Exchange to accommodate the Fibre Access Node) the costs for construction at this location have to be obtained. It is estimated that the case study will be completed by late July 2011.

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Question No: 4

Hansard Ref: JC15

Topic: Percentage of homes connected using overhead cable?

Mr Fletcher asked:

What percentage of homes will be connected using overhead cable and approximately how many thousands of kilometres of overhead cable do you expect in the access network?

Answer:

The percentage of premises assumed to be passed by overhead cable within the access network is 25 per cent over the full deployment period (forecast to be 9.5 years to December 2020 in the Corporate Plan).

This would represent an estimate of close to 50,000 kilometres of overhead cable sheath deployed across the fibre footprint.

This assumption in the Corporate Plan is dependent on the availability of existing underground infrastructure, which is anticipated to be sourced from Telstra, as well as the premises density (distances between premises) in the areas where Telstra ducts would not be available.

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Question No: 5

Hansard Ref: JC15

Topic: Use of overhead cable in Bradfield electorate

Mr Fletcher asked:

What is the risk of further overhead cable being installed in the electorate of Bradfield?

Answer:

An actual detailed design of the Bradfield electorate would be required in order to generate the appropriate knowledge of the fibre infrastructure requirements.

That said, NBN Co is committed to underground fibre infrastructure wherever suitable underground ducting is available.

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Question No: 6

Hansard Ref: JC15

Topic: Critical Target dates

Mr Hartsuyker asked:

What elements of the original target dates contained on page 19 of the NBN Co Corporate Plan are still on target?

Answer:

All elements of the high level FTTP timeline to 30 June 2013 (*Exhibit 1.3 on page 19 of the NBN Co Corporate Plan*) remain within the target timeline with the exception that negotiations with Telstra on the Definitive Agreements are continuing and a further update will be available once negotiations have been finalised.

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Question No: 7

Hansard Ref: JC22

Topic: Fixed Wireless technology availability

Ms Ley asked:

What date do you anticipate that the 12 Mbps will be available to those citizens of Australia living in the 94 to 97 percentiles?

Answer:

First commercial services on our Fixed Wireless 12Mbps service will be available in the second half of calendar 2012, consistent with the targets set in NBN Co's Corporate Plan 2011-2013. Full rollout of the wireless service will occur progressively over the period 2012-15.

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Question No:8

Hansard Ref: JC27

Topic: Interim Satellite Service from 1 July 2011

Senator Birmingham asked:

Who will be eligible to connect to the satellite service that will be available from 1 July 2011?

Answer:

On 26 May 2011 NBN Co issued a Press Release announcing the detailed eligibility criteria for the Interim Satellite Service. The eligibility criteria document is available on the company's website at:

<http://www.nbnco.com.au/wps/wcm/connect/main/site-base/main-areas/publications-and-announcements/announcements/NBN-Co-releases-Interim-Satellite-eligibility-criteria.html>