

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 60

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 25 (25/2/2014)

Topic: Areas unable to receive fixed broadband service

Senator Conroy asked:

Are the 700,000 premises, or the six per cent of the total, that are unable to receive a fixed broadband service mostly in areas where the NBN Co fixed wireless service and long-term satellite service will be provided?

Ms Grainger: I would need to take that on notice to make sure that my language is absolutely correct for you. The 700,000 premises are, as you would expect, distributed across the country. But, when we look at the analysis in terms of the remoteness classification, more premises without access to fixed broadband services are in the remote locations. So that may lead you to think about what particular solution they may receive via the NBN.

Answer:

The Broadband Availability and Quality analysis used the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Standard Geographic Classification Remoteness Structure and the analysis found 27 per cent of the 700,000 premises that are unable to receive a fixed broadband service are located in major cities of Australia.

65 per cent are located in inner regional and outer regional areas. The remaining 8 per cent are located in remote and very remote areas¹.

¹ The analysis identified that of the approximately 220,000 premises located in remote and very remote Australia, approximately 53,000 premises do not have access to a fixed broadband service.