

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 8

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 22/02/2016

Topic: Mobile Blackspots Programme

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Referring to the Mobile Black Spot Programme:

- (a) How many round one base station upgrades were completed by the end of 2015 and how many remain?
- (b) When does the department expect to have the upgrade of all round one sites completed?
- (c) Please provide the committee with a list of all sites and their status of upgrade?

Answer:

- a) Under round 1 of the Mobile Black Spot Programme, 499 mobile base stations will be rolled out across regional and remote Australia. By the end of 2015, seven base stations were completed and providing services.
- b) The full rollout of round 1 base stations will occur progressively over three years with the final base stations scheduled for completion in 2018.
- c) The Government announced on 17 February 2016 the locations of 78 round 1 base stations to be constructed by 30 June 2016. On 16 March 2016, Telstra released a website which provides detail on the status and timing of the 429 base stations being constructed by Telstra under round 1 of the programme. Vodafone is also expected to shortly publish an indicative schedule.

To date, 21 round 1 base stations at the following locations have commenced delivering services:

Ajana (WA)	Austins Hills/Mirboo East (Vic)	Benambra (Vic)
Blackwood (Vic)	Boonah Rathdowney Road (Qld)	Brassi (NSW)
Burnett Highway (Qld)	Clarke Creek (Qld)	Cobbitty (NSW)
Colo Heights (NSW)	Drake (NSW)	Eukey (Qld)
Eulo (Qld)	Forsayth (Qld)	Marlborough (Qld)
Palinyewah (NSW)	Pigeon Ponds (Vic)	Quilpie (Qld)
Saint Andrews (Vic)	Spring Mountain Road (NSW)	Werrimull (Vic)

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A further 57 base stations at the following locations are expected to be completed by 30 June 2016:

Acacia Hills (Tas)	Elsmore (NSW)	Nabawa (WA)
Araluen (NSW)	Ferguson Valley (WA)	Naraling (WA)
Blackheath (Vic)	Gormandale (Vic)	Nethercote (NSW)
Blaxlands Ridge (NSW)	Grass Valley (WA)	Patchewollock (Vic)
Bodalla (NSW)	Greenvale (Qld)	Powers Creek (Vic)
Bogee (NSW)	Hernani (NSW)	Sandy Point (Vic)
Bothwell (Tas)	Hillgrove (NSW)	Sheep Hills (Vic)
Buckland (Tas)	Invergowrie (NSW)	Sherwood (NSW)
Capricorn Highway (Qld)	Kadnook (Vic)	South Yuna (WA)
Carapook (Vic)	Kin Kin (Qld)	Speewah (Qld)
Cargo (NSW)	Kunnoppin (WA)	Swansea (Tas)
Carlisle River (Vic)	Lalbert (Vic)	Tatong (Vic)
Clunes (NSW)	Lue (NSW)	Toobeah (Qld)
Coalstoun Lakes (Qld)	Manildra (NSW)	Warroo (NSW)
Cooyar (Qld)	Manna Mountain (NSW)	West River Vic
Crows Nest (Qld)	Minilya (WA)	Wherrol Flat (NSW)
Curramulka (SA)	Molong (NSW)	Wombelano (Vic)
Darby Falls (NSW)	Mount Mee (Qld)	Woolomin (NSW)
East Yuna (WA)	Mulgildie (Qld)	Woolooga (Qld)

A full list of all 499 base stations being rolled out under round 1 of the programme is available on the Department's website at www.communications.gov.au/mobile_coverage