

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 285

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Network design optimisation tools

Senator Urquhart asked:

In June 2011 NBN Co in a Media Release titled “NBN Co uses advanced maths to optimise network design/reduce costs” the company announced a purchase from Binarri for \$6.5 million dollars of network design optimisation tools.

- a. Have these tools been used to date for determining rollout progression? If not, why not and what is being used instead?
- b. Has the Binarri software been reconfigured [or any system used to replace it] with the information required to undertake the planning exercise for the MTM?
- c. Does this reconfiguration include the areas identified as “poorly served” for prioritisation?

Answer:

- a. Binarri tools are used to optimise initial network designs. Determining rollout progression requires a different set of capabilities that Binarri does not offer. Bespoke systems called X-Sites and Sequence Generator were developed for rollout planning.
- b. NBN Co investigates configuration and enhancement on an ongoing and iterative basis, including potentially optimising Binarri for Multi Technology Mix (MTM) designs. Similarly, existing planning tools can also be reconfigured to support the implementation of MTM.
- c. Yes, NBN Co planning systems will ensure prioritisation aligns with the Statement of Expectations in areas identified as “poorly served”.