

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2016

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 16

nbn

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Topic: Fixed Wireless

Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:

Senator Conroy: Do you think it is more than just Strahan, or just more areas around Strahan?

Mr Ryan: Strahan is to get the fixed wireless.

Senator Conroy: I thought Mr Morrow and Mr Rue said there was an increase in fixed wireless.

Mr Rue: That is right.

Senator Conroy: So is it just more around Strahan, or in a few other areas?

Mr Ryan: I do not think it is around Strahan specifically. Other areas within the general vicinity are getting fixed wireless.

Senator Back: So not Zeehan, not Queenstown?

Senator Conroy: I will not hold you to exactly where around the area it is, but could you take on notice where else is getting fixed wireless? That would be great.

Mr Morrow: We can do that.

Answer:

In order to balance satellite beam loads in Tasmania as part of rollout planning for the West Coast, nbn plans to build a number of towers on the East Coast of Tasmania. This allows transfer of some premises on the border of the satellite beams in western Tasmania to available capacity on the east coast beam. nbn is planning additional towers in Scamander, Beaumaris, Derby Valley, Winnaleah, Springfield, St Helens, Fingal and St Marys. These towers would offer fixed wireless services to approximately 1,800 premises. Construction of the towers is subject to acquisition of suitable sites and meeting government planning requirements for the local area.