

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 210

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Page 90, 25/05/2017

Topic: Towns going to Fixed Wireless-Satellite

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Have you moved 62 whole towns?

Mr Morrow: What do you mean by moved them?

Senator URQUHART: From fixed line onto wireless or satellite. I will just go through some of the names for you. So according to *iTnews* the towns include Coraki and Tumbarumba in New South Wales; Childers, Millmerran and Toogoolawah in Queensland; Railton and Sheffield in Tasmania; Chiltern, Dimboola, Donald, Eildon, Nathalia, Rosedale, Rushworth and Timboon in Victoria; and apparently there is also a number of other towns within larger fibre serving areas that are also finding themselves allocated fixed wireless connections instead of FTTN.

Mr Simon: That is quite possible because we optimise, but just be aware that our fixed wireless product is one of our best and highest regarded products out there.

Senator URQUHART: So out of those—

Mr Simon: It can already go to 50 megabits and we have announced 100 megabits so relative to the speed tiers they can get they are at no disadvantage.

Senator URQUHART: So out of those towns which ones are going to fixed wireless and which ones are going to satellite?

Mr Morrow: We can take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: I would like to know.

Mr Simon: Remember that what we are delivering here is a technology agnostic solution. Fifty megabits on fixed wireless is still 50 megabits. It is no different to 50 megabits on FTTN or 50 megabits on FTTP.

Senator URQUHART: It is when you keep having dropouts and it depends on what the—

Mr Simon: The fixed wireless is one of the highest regarded products.

Senator URQUHART: That is what I am asking. Which towns are those going to be because they have been moved from fixed line to either wireless or satellite, or it appears that way. Can you take that on notice?

Mr Simon: Yes.

Answer:

Please refer to Question 207.