

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Budget Estimates 2014  
3 June to 5 June 2014

**Department/ Agency:** ACCC

**Question:** BET 19

**Topic:** NBN speed claims

**Reference:** Hansard page 37, 4 June 2014

**Senator:** Conroy

**Question:**

19. Senator CONROY: Putting to one side for the moment the decisions made by the RSP, including back-haul, contention ratios and CVC, and any speed limits imposed by the RSP itself, such as shaping, is it correct that on the fibre network the RSP will know the capability of the wholesale product being delivered by NBN Co from the POI to the premises?

Mr Sims: Sorry—that they will know the speed?

Senator CONROY: They will.

Mr Sims: I will take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: It is a piece of fibre that goes from there to there.

Mr Sims: I understand the question, but it has a technical element to it and I do not want to mislead you.

Senator CONROY: What will the RSP know about performance in an FTTN environment? I imagine this would be very similar to your 2007 ADSL paper. The speed attainable will be dependent on the length of the loop, the condition of the copper et cetera, but what will the RSP know about the capability of the wholesale product being delivered by NBN Co from the POI to the premises over FTTN?

Mr Sims: I will take it on notice, thank you. But I point out that, as I say, there are a lot of factors at work to know—

Senator CONROY: But I am being very specific. I am isolating factors that—

Mr Sims: And that is why I will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

19. The ACCC understands that an RSP will know the general capability of the wholesale FTTP product that it acquires from NBN Co from the POI to the Premises.

The capability of the FTTP, wireless and satellite wholesale product delivered by NBN Co will depend on the product's class of service and the service standards offered by NBN Co. The details of these capabilities and service standards are set out in NBN Co's Wholesale Broadband Agreement. NBN Co also offers product trials and network testing with RSPs.

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This does not necessarily mean that the RSP will know with certainty the 'speeds' that will be delivered by NBN Co over individual FTTP connections at all times. For example, NBN Co supplies a class of service whose 'speeds' are specified as "best efforts", and it is possible that these NBN access products could be affected by network contention from time to time.

In an FTTN environment, there will be further factors that will influence the available 'speeds' from the NBN Co POI to the premises, including the length and grade of the line. The ACCC understands that NBN Co is developing a service to allow RSPs to estimate the available data-rate over FTTN to particular premises at the time of qualifying a service. The ACCC would expect that RSPs would use any such service from NBN Co, and consult the relevant service standards, to understand the capability of individual FTTN access products.