

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 182

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: Pages 71-72 (19/11/13)

Topic: High-frequency Interference

Senator Lundy asked:

There are several reports by this and other committees in parliament about the state of the copper network. Although they constitute historical documents at this juncture, no doubt they still bring some bearing to the state of the network and may be useful. I understand that Telstra is currently investigating about one case per week of high-frequency interference with copper that makes ADSL unusable. Does NBN Co. have any information about this problem within the network and can you explain what this issue is and why it affects data but not voice services?

Dr Switkowski: One case per week?

Senator LUNDY: Yes—responding to complaints.

Dr Switkowski: Fifty a year out of 10-plus million lines? Telstra has more problems with wombats chewing through its cables.

Senator LUNDY: Are you aware of this problem?

Dr Switkowski: No.

Senator LUNDY: We do not have a CTO at the table? Do you have a CTO here?

Dr Switkowski: No.

Senator LUNDY: Perhaps you could take that on notice...

Senator LUNDY: ...Thank you. I will place on notice the question about the interference.

Answer:

NBN Co does not have any information on the fault rates from “high frequency interference” on Telstra’s copper network. Telstra would be best placed to answer this question.