

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: 192

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: Pg 90 (19/11/2013)

Topic: NBN in Indigenous Communities

Senator Peris asked:

Thank you. Minister, does your government have plans to provide assistance to Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory to connect the network given the opportunities to improve service delivery to communities and families, particularly remote communities, through the NBN?

Senator Fifield: The government's overall approach is that we want to see the NBN rolled out faster and more affordably, and that will benefit everyone in Australia. But, if there are particular plans or proposals that are separate to that which would benefit particular communities, I am happy to take that on notice. I think the prime thing is that the sooner, the faster, and the better the NBN gets rolled out that is to the benefit of all Australians.

Answer:

The Australian Government is committed to providing broadband connections through a variety of technologies and as a Government Business Enterprise and Utility we are responsible for providing the connection.

There are no current NBN connection initiatives targeted specifically at indigenous communities.