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: 195

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Tower Construction

Senator Madigan asked:

Will NBN Co. now honour the wishes of local residents by abandoning the proposal to construct a fixed wireless tower in protected bushland in a residential area already serviced by fibre?

Answer:

Delivering fixed line services to the outer regions of Buninyong is not the most cost effective technology due to the total number and density of premises in this part of the community. Fixed wireless is the most cost effective solution for this area. NBN Co is not intending to withdraw its application.

The wishes of residents directly affected by infrastructure must always be carefully balanced against the interests of the (typically much larger) number of residents who benefit from improved networks.