

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: 196

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Tower Construction

Senator Madigan asked:

On behalf of the residents of Mt Helen and Buninyong I ask NBN Co - will you accord these residents an appropriate sign of respect by immediately suspending or withdrawing the planning application that has been lodged at Ballarat City Council until such time as the government has completed its 60 day review?

Answer:

The Strategic Review of the NBN Co project is now completed and with the Government for consideration. In the meantime, the 24 September 2013 Interim Statement of Expectations from Shareholder Ministers instructs NBN Co to keep rolling out Satellite and Fixed Wireless technologies to regional and rural areas. Pending further advice from Government, the expectation is that much of NBN Co's construction of the Fixed Wireless network will continue as usual. It is still the case that delivering Fixed Wireless services is the most cost effective technology to deliver services to these premises, given the new mix of technologies that will be used as an outcome of the strategic review.